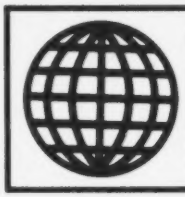

Daily Report

Latin America

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Latin America

FBIS-LAT-89-039 *1 March 1989*

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Reaction to San Jose V Meeting, Peace Plan

UK Official Shows Support

PA2802161689 Paris AFP in Spanish 0826 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 28 Feb—Timothy Eggar, British deputy secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs, said in San Pedro Sula today that Nicaragua should heed "not only the letter but also the spirit" of the democratization accords concluded in Central America.

During a meeting with reporters outside the San Jose V Conference, relations between the EEC and Central America were discussed, and the minister said: "Democracy is the key to progress." Eggar said that in Nicaragua "the judicial system, the Army, and the police must be entirely free from state or party control."

The British minister, who underlined his government's support for the peace process proposed for the region, referred particularly to the statement that the five Central American presidents signed at the end of the recent summit in El Salvador. He said: "The pledge must be made good." Eggar declined to say if effective compliance with the democratization measures announced by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega might determine the United Kingdom's participation in this country's financial support for Nicaragua and the region through the EEC.

Referring to Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte's proposal to reopen a dialogue with the FMLN, Eggar said he has proposed that the San Pedro Sula conference's final resolution include "firm support" for Duarte's proposal.

D'Escoto Scores UK, U.S. Comments

PA2802183589 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0618 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Report by Agustin Fuentes]

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 27 Feb (REUTER)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today had a verbal war with delegates from the United Kingdom and the United States during a conference of European and Central American diplomats. D'Escoto recommended to U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Everett Briggs that he wash his mouth before speaking and told British Foreign Relations Deputy Secretary Tim Eggar that he speaks with the same spirit of Elliott Abrams, a combative U.S. State Department official in charge of the Latin American area during the Ronald Reagan administration.

European and Central American foreign ministers and diplomats are discussing aid projects for Central America at a local hotel here. Eggar represents the United Kingdom at this meeting, and Briggs went to the hotel as an observer.

At a news conference called by Eggar, the British official scored the Nicaraguan Government, saying it must comply not only with the letter of the Central American summit meetings but also with their spirit. Eggar interpreted that spirit as an obligation on the part of the Nicaraguan Government to decree a separation between the state, the governing party, and the Army. When a British journalist observed that this would imply constitutional reforms in Nicaragua, Eggar insisted this is what he views as the spirit of the commitments made by the Nicaraguan Government.

A few minutes later, D'Escoto told journalists that "Eggar is the sole discordant note in the foreign ministers' meeting." He noted: "The spirit he mentions is the spirit of Elliott Abrams." "He is very much out of place," D'Escoto affirmed.

Another member of the Nicaraguan delegation, military intelligence chief Ricardo Wheelock, said Eggar has demonstrated that "he completely ignores what is going on in Central America." He noted: "What he said about Nicaraguan domestic affairs is as if I, a Nicaraguan, were to tell England the queen must go." Wheelock added: "Eggar spoke not only as a British official but also as a spokesman for the U.S. State Department."

Earlier, Ambassador Briggs had told reporters that "in Central America, there are five brothers; the only problem is that one of them never takes a bath." An offended Nicaraguan foreign minister said Briggs "not only does not bathe, he also does not wash his mouth."

More on D'Escoto Remarks

PA2802163889 Paris AFP in Spanish 0800 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] San Pedro Sula, 27 Feb (AFP)—Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto today described Timothy Eggar, British deputy secretary for foreign and commonwealth affairs, as "ignorant." Eggar criticized the Sandinist government during a news conference.

Commenting on assertions by Eggar, the British delegate to the Central American and EEC foreign ministers meeting, D'Escoto said: "This gentleman shows a high degree of ignorance by repeating, like a parrot, things about which he is not familar."

Eggar had said that to achieve democracy in Nicaragua "it is essential that the Sandinist government grant ample freedom to the opposition so the latter can express its views freely and that the judicial system, the Army, and the police must be entirely free from state or party control."

Two weeks ago, the Sandinists promised to hold free elections in February 1990. The opposition, however, has warned that it would be at a disadvantage in the elections if the "party-state-army system" continues.

D'Escoto said Eggar's remarks "missed the point entirely" and "introduced a discordant note in the meeting."

Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela Support

PA2802182189 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1719 GMT 28 Feb 89

["Joint declaration" by Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela; issued in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on 28 February]

[Text] The ministers of Colombia, Mexico, and Venezuela, considering the great importance the consolidation of peace and democracy in Central America represents for the Central American governments, which have made strenuous efforts toward this end in the past few years, express their willingness to directly contribute, beginning with the San Jose group's next meeting, to the economic dialogue between the EC and Central America. In this way, the three countries are responding to the request made by the Central American presidents at the past summit in El Salvador for specific support to the socioeconomic recovery process of the nations of the isthmus.

EEC, Ministers Support Duarte's Proposal

PA2802135889 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1232 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the San Jose V Conference in San Pedro Sula, Honduras; date not given]

[Text] In response to the peace proposal presented by Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte on 26 February, considering that this proposal coincides with the Salvadoran people's hopes for peace within the framework of the letter and spirit of the Esquipulas II agreement and its annexes and that the proposal represents a praiseworthy effort demonstrating the Salvadoran Government's political resolve for peace, we—the EEC, Central American, and Contadora representatives—hereby exhort all the country's legal and institutional forces involved in this effort, as well as the FMLN, to respond immediately and positively with the greatest possible effort to support President Duarte's peace proposal.

Consequently, we support this proposal because it includes positive factors that will contribute toward a firm and lasting peace in El Salvador and the region in general. We hereby offer the necessary cooperation so negotiations can be successfully completed. In addition, we hereby express our support for the appeals made to the international community through Esquipulas II and its subsequent resolutions, particularly the request included in Article 5 of this document.
[Signed] San Jose V Conference

Azcona Schedules Summit for 12-13 Apr

PA2802014589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0118 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] San Pedro Sula, Honduras, 27 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran President Jose Azcona Hoyo today scheduled the fifth summit of Central American presidents for 12-13 April.

The announcement was made by one of the spokesmen for the Honduran Presidency in the context of the conference with the EC and Central America that is under way in San Pedro Sula.

Central America Facing 'Worst Economic Crisis'

PA2502122989 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2349 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Tela (Honduras), 24 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Rolando Ramirez Paniagua, president of the Central American Bank of Economic Integration [BCIE], today said that the per capita income in Central America has decreased by 19 percent, while its capital investments have decreased by 23 percent.

Ramirez, a Costa Rican national, was a guest speaker at a meeting of Central American and Panamanian deputies being held in Tela, a Honduran port city on the Atlantic coast. At the meeting, the deputies are analyzing the process of Central American integration.

Ramirez said that the region's gross domestic product in 1987 was the same as that of 1980, but its per capita income during this period decreased by 18.6 percent.

He added that the region suffered a sharp decline in capital between 1979 and 1987. Its actual fixed investments decreased by 23 percent during this period, "which shows how low production and employment levels were" in the area.

Ramirez said that the regional trade deficit with respect to the rest of the world went from $605 million in 1980 to $1.318 billion in 1987. He noted that during this decade, Central America has experienced "the worst economic crisis in its history."

Ramirez also stressed that there was a dramatic drop in the region's export rate during this decade, along with a deterioration in its terms of exchange and a decline in regional trade. Meanwhile, he added, the interest on the region's foreign debt grew during this period.

Ramirez said that the area's economy has also been affected by reduced financing from international private banks—a situation which is not expected to change very soon—and by dwindling multilateral credit sources.

According to Ramirez, Central America's medium-range economic prospects are not encouraging because prices for the region's principal exports are expected to drop even further in the first part of the next decade.

Cuba

Accusations in Human Rights Report Denied

FL2802171289 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1532 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Cuban Foreign Vice Minister Raul Roa Kouri today denied the supposed validity of accusations against our country contained in a report that is being analyzed by the UN Human Rights Commission.

Commenting on the report—which was possible thanks to the invitation of the Cuban Government to the members of the organization to observe the situation of human rights in Cuba—Roa Kouri said that the group did not verify in any way the accusations contained in the document. The head of the Cuban delegation said that a very small number of individuals, who repeat the lies fabricated in Washington, will not be able to deny the irrefutable truth affirmed by the majority of our people regarding the justice of our revolution. The Cuban vice minister also said that the existence of an isolated case cannot be used to characterize the general situation.

Roa Kouri recalled that there has not been a single impartial medical expert, in or out of Cuba, who has shown that the supposed cases of torture reported to the commission by some interviews are true. The supposed organization contacted for the report is actually the so-called Pro-Human Rights Committee which supposedly has thousands of members. However, the committee actually has only 70 members—a somewhat reduced figure due to the recent divisions—and oth[illegible]mittees only have 1 member, the diplomat said. The Cuban vice minister said that citing the number of member organizations permits the commission to see how unrepresentative their opinion is in comparison to the millions of people who build the social projects of the revolution.

Roa Kouri said that the limitations on freedom of speech mentioned in the report refer to events that took place over 20 years ago, and were not detected by the group while in the country.

In his speech, the Cuban diplomat denounced the attempts by Washington to discredit our country with a policy of harassment, pressures, and aggressions that have cost the United States millions of dollars. Roa Kouri made specific reference to the huge propaganda campaign that has been going on against the Cuban Revolution for more than 4 years in respect to human rights. The campaign includes the creation of alleged pro-human rights groups in Cuba and abroad, the continuous publication of false news in the international press, and the use of counterrevolutionary elements to provoke the people within our country, the official said. When the mission arrived in Cuba, Roa Kouri said, U.S. radio stations urged these groups to make statements to the UN mission.

Further on Human Rights

FL2802191489 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Report by Orlando Contreras, special correspondent to Geneva]

[Text] Raul Roa Kouri, head of the Cuban delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission, said today at the UN plenum that there are not, nor have there ever been after the revolution, missing persons, tortures, or clandestine executions in Cuba. He added that there are not, nor have there been, death squads or police repression using dogs, clubs, or tear gas like many so-called western democracies practice.

Roa was the first person to speak at today's debate on the report written by the UN human rights group that visited Cuba last September at the explicit invitation of our government so that it would observe, in situs, the truth. Roa Kouri's speech covered three basic areas: a history of all types of aggressions and crimes, including assassination attempts against leaders of the revolution, and a blockade that has been maintained throughout eight U.S. Administrations. The second point, in addition to thanking the members of the delegation, summarizes the fact that the report denies the accusations made by Vernon Walters, former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Last year at this UN Human Rights Commission, Walters said that neither tortures nor clandestine executions had ceased in Cuba. He also said that there are thousands of—10,000 or 15,000—political prisoners in work camps and prisons.

Roa Kouri showed the manipulation and falseness of those accusations, and informed the plenum that the number of counterrevolutionary prisoners in Cuba today is less than 100—and not 10,000, like former Batista policeman Armando Valladares, head of the U.S. delegation, said in a press conference last Friday.

U.S. Wants Monitoring

FL0103021189 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report by Pedro Martinez Pirez, special correspondent to Geneva]

[Text] A long and intense debate, with the participation of some 35 speakers, took place this Tuesday at the UN Human Rights Commission meeting after the report on Cuba was [words indistinct] who headed the group that visited our country last September at the invitation of the Cuban Government.

The first speech was given by Cuban Vice Foreign Minister Raul Roa Kouri who spoke about the report and said it had two basic flaws. The first flaw is that the report included information that is 20-30 years old—

information for which the group was not sent to Cuba to get—and secondly, for having included testimonial information from Miami, Madrid, London, and the U.S. Embassy in Geneva.

After Roa's speech, several countries asked to speak, including of course the United States and some of its West Europe allies. A strong confrontation and an intense and prolonged debate resulted which was dominated by the United States' position in the sense of reiterating the impostor, Armando Valladares, had already [words indistinct] barely after the English edition of the report was released. This is to say that the United States is soliciting from the 45th session that the mandate of the group that went to Cuba be maintained, and that the human rights situation in Cuba continue to be monitored. With this, the United States would feed the anti-Cuban elements propaganda and not be defeated, here in Geneva, for a the third consecutive time by Cuba.

We are in the penultimate week of the 45th session of the United Nations' meeting. The debate, which should have ended today, Tuesday, was not able to end because the speakers are making certain that the debate continue for a good part of Wednesday's working period.

The confrontation has been stated; the United States is trying, at all costs since it cannot get a resolution condemning Cuba for human rights violations, to get a consensus to keep monitoring Cuba and this way saving imperialism's face.

Book Shows Respect for Rights

FL2402140989 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] The book entitled "Human Rights in Cuba" by the eminent Cuban lawyer, Fabio Raimundo Torrado, has been presented at the Museum of the Revolution. The essential content of the book describes the legal guarantees for human rights in Cuba and states how Cuban legislation corresponds to the Universal Human Rights Declaration. The book also contains the complete text of the universal declaration, as well as other UN documents that pertain to this topic.

The purpose of this book is to demonstrate that the nation has shown great concern for the strict respect of each citizen's human rights since the beginning of the Cuban Revolution.

Economic Minister Melendez Meets Guyana's Hoyte

FL2302135089 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] Guyanese President Desmond Hoyte has received Cuban Economic Cooperation Minister Ernesto Melendez in a private meeting.

According to an official spokesman, Hoyte recalled his recent visit to Cuba and the talks he held here with Cuban President Fidel Castro. The Guyanese head of state ratified the decision to strengthen bilateral relations and expand cooperation for the mutual benefit of both nations.

Melendez presented Hoyte with a personal message from Fidel on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the proclamation of Guyana as a cooperative republic.

Yesterday in Georgetown, the two governments signed a trade and economic cooperation agreement that will regulate bilateral trade this year.

Construction Materials Minister on Investment

FL2302045089 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0037 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Interview With Levi Farah, minister of construction materials industry, by Felix Fernando Garrido—live]

[Garrido] Minister, we would like to know what the main investment plans of the construction materials industry are.

[Farah] The main investments are the following: First, we must say that this year, 39 new investment plans have been completed; actually they were completed in 1988. In the first semester of 1989, we we are going to complete 46 new investments. This year, we will begin, and try to finish as much as possible, 68 new investments. All of this (?totals) 145 new lines of production that will increase the national capacity for the production of materials.

Above all, we are trying to use to the fullest extent, the capacity of the facilities we currently have. This is to increase our production. Then, of course, this large investment plan is also to increase the quantity and quality of our material.

Within the various production lines, the main investments are the following: We are restoring all the cement factories, for example. Also, this year we will complete a production line for white cement that for the first time in Cuba is going to be produced in the Siguaney factory. Production of this white cement is scheduled to begin in May or June of this year. We will also begin operations at the end of this year of a new cement factory in Jibaro, Holguin Province. We are also installing electric filters [electrofiltros] in the Nuevitas and Santiago de Cuba factories; they improve the factory's efficiency and also improve the environment.

Within the production of asbestos cement, this year we are installing three new lines to produce tiles with asbestos. One line in Santiago de Cuba will be completed in May, another in Artemisa will be completed at the end of this year. We will also begin by midyear to install a new line of production in Siguaney, Sancti Spiritus. The production of tile is very important right now for the

country, because it is used a lot in industrial, agricultural, and in housing projects. Regarding (?quarries), [words indistinct] a great effort is being made to finish within the next few months the [word indistinct] that will be completed in record time. We promised Comrade Fidel that it would be finished by 26 July, and we hope that the construction workers will finish it a few months ahead of schedule. We are also installing a new plant to produce aggregate in Molina, Havana Province. We are also installing a new plant in Matanzas, and another one in [name indistinct]. Here in Havana we have already started to expand a new sand enterprise in the Victoria zone; we will also expand another enterprise. We will have five installations in this important zone to produce sand for Havana City.

As for carpentry shops, we are installing six new carpentry shops in the country. This will be specifically for housing projects, social projects, and some other industries as well. Regarding ceramics, we are also expanding the bathroom tile and furniture factory in Holguin. It will be producing bathroom furniture by the first quarter of this year. By the end of the first semester, it will be producing bathroom tile. Also, here in Havana Province, the San Jose factory is being expanded. New lines are being installed that will triple the production of that factory. We will also improve the production of raw materials [word indistinct] feldspar, and the [word indistinct] in Holguin, as well as the Sancti Spiritus potassic feldspar. We also have a large investment to increase brick and (?roof) tile production in Pinar del Rio, Havana City, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, Villa Clara, Santiago de Cuba, and Guantanamo. We are also thinking about rebuilding and expanding the production of [word indistinct] tile in the Antonio Suarez factory in Camaguey, and the Rene Evelia factory in Havana.

In the production of concrete, we are currently installing 40 new block lines [lineas de bloque] with a capacity of 4 million [unit not specified] each that will help very much in construction. We are also installing five new lines (?made) here. The 14 Spanish lines have a capacity of 4 million each per year, and ours, the national ones, have a production of 900,000 blocks per year. We have also increased the production of floor tile. We are installing 15 production lines for mosaic. We are also installing four factories for larger tiles; one is in Havana, the other is in Havana City, one in Villa Clara, and the other in Sancti Spiritus. We are also installing five new production lines of the cement-like paint [pintura cementosa] that is giving such good results. One of the lines is in Pinar del Rio, two in Havana, one in Cienfuegos, and another one in Ciego de Avila.

As you can see, the investment plan we have is extensive and strong, and we are working very hard for the construction workers so that, in the least amount of time, we can finish these installations and increase the production of materials that our nation needs so much for its economic and social development.

[Garrido] Minister, it seems that the industry is growing [word indistinct]. However, I would like you to talk about other aspects of the ministry's work; for example, the cooperation and the presence of a Soviet delegation in our country. Please tell us about your initial contacts with it.

[Farah] Yes, the Soviet minister of construction materials industry and the minister of materials of the Socialist Republic of the Ukraine are visiting us. They have been in Cuba since Sunday and have visited several factories in various provinces. The results of the meeetings with them have been great. We are going to reach a cooperation agreement between the ministries of the Soviet Union and Cuba that will benefit us very much in the various branches. They will provide us with the plants for the various production lines we were talking about. In particular, we will reach agreements for the next 5 years that will allow us to continue with the development plan for construction materials. We will also exchange experiences, and hold scientific-technical exchanges. The Soviet comrades are very enthusiastic and are very willing, as always, to help us.

Culture Minister Closes 11th Radio Festival

FL2702211589 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish
2057 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Communist Party of Cuba's Politburo and culture minister, said in Santa Clara that rectification in the radio and television sector is to apply, with increasing demand and rigor, the cultural policies of the Cuban Revolution.

Upon closing the 11th national radio festival, Hart stated that the road to follow, in radio as well as television, is the revolutionary process of rectification. He also said that the advances made in this sector are due to this process.

In his speech, the Cuban minister said that intellectuals discuss, with the leaders, methods to promote culture. Hart said that despite the campaigns carried out against our country, the creators, whether young or old, are in keeping with the revolution.

The culture minister criticized the cadres who have no capacity to lead and who do not possess cultural sensitivity to function properly. Hart also said that creators and artists have to be respected.

Attorney General's Office Discusses Crime

FL2302161289 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] The need to establish strict control from the grass roots to central organizations in the permanent fight against economic crimes was one of the most debated topics at the annual assessment meeting of the Cuban Attorney General's Office.

During the important meeting, it was also learned that the Attorney General's Office last year progressed in its work of purging waivers [renuncias] and redoubled its cooperation with police instructors and experts in order to work more efficiently. [passage omitted]

In reference to the permanent fight against criminal activities, it was reported that more severe action will be taken this year against those who disturb the population's peace and safety. [passage omitted]

PNR Revokes Licenses for Safety Violations

FL2502131589 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Feb 89

[Police report from the general directorate of the National Revolutionary Police, PNR]

[Text] The security sector of the PNR's Transit Department in Havana has withdrawn 5,863 license plates in the last 3 months, most of which belonged to vehicles that were parked illegally, and a small fraction of which did not meet the required standard of inspection.

During the same time, 953 drivers licenses were revoked from drivers and over 2,000 registrations [autorizaciones de circulacion] were revoked from enterprises that were in violation of Agreement 222, which prohibits the driving of heavy machinery within city limits.

The PNR says that most of the infractions are due to illegal parking, including parking on the sidewalks, and for using vehicles without permits, or vehicles that do not meet safety standards. These are things which endanger the lives of the drivers and the pedestrians.

Finally, the operational forces responsible for transit security say they will double their vigilance against all violators, and they will use more severe measures against people who insist on driving vehicles that violate the established law of the road and transit codes.

South African Administration of Namibia Ends

FL0103024589 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] The colonial government established by South Africa in Namibia today finalized its responsibilities with a farewell meeting.

That administrative apparatus, imposed by Pretoria in 1985 with international criticism, will be substituted, as of tomorrow, by an administrator general, (Luis Pienar), who will assume the function of governor until the elections are held next November under United Nations' supervision.

This is a step, prior to April, of the application of UN Resolution 435 which will end 74 years of South African colonialism in Namibia.

Dominican Republic

Balaguer on Maintaining Relations With Cuba

FL2802175689 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1156 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The broadening of our country's relations with the neighboring island of Cuba was stressed by President Joaquin Balaguer as an important step of his administrative action. Although, he said, this does not compromise the democratic nature of the Dominican Republic.

The Dominican leader said that lately our relations with certain countries of different ideological structures have been expanded. Speaking to the legislators, President Joaquin Balaguer said: We have opened the door to many activities that bring us closer to the people of those countries without having to sacrifice our authentic desires, our principles, or ideas to which we have remained loyal in our life of independence.

President Joaquin Balaguer affirmed that when the conduct of the government is above all suspicion, when nothing or no one can doubt its direction, that government can do many things that would be prohibited to others. The Dominican leader said that relations with Cuba will be maintained at the level they have been developing lately. Although, he did not guarantee that it will lead to another type of more formal relations between the two countries.

President Accused of Insulting Teachers

FL2802141289 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1149 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] Former Education Secretary Lic Ivelisse Prats de Perez says Balaguer has continually insulted the Dominican teachers. Lic Prats de Perez asserts that the leader is being misinformed about the role of the PRD [Dominican Revolutionary Party] in education.

Lic Prats de Perez affirmed that President Joaquin Balaguer has continually insulted the Dominican teachers with expressions that often offend educators. The former education secretary was referring to a statement made by President Joaquin Balaguer during his speech to the National Assembly in which he said that the majority of Dominican teachers are semi-illiterates who can barely write their names. That statement by the president of the Republic is (?inflammatory) to Dominican teachers. It is similar to a statement made during his 12-year government in which he said that we, the teachers, are flighty, said Ivelisse Prats de Perez. [passage omitted]

'Strong Military Patrol' Present at Cotui Strike

FL2702174289 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1632 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Cotui—The workers strike in Los Cacaos began its 8th day today amid a strong military patrol, the detention of several people, several obstacles in the road,

and a church occupied by peasants. The workers are striking for the payment of more than 10 million pesos for the moving of more than 1,000 families and for the appraisal of their lands.

On Sunday, peasants threw rocks at a police jeep that attempted to enter the area of conflict. Although no one was injured, several people were detained.

For his part, the Cotui priest, (Miguel Jakes), denied statements made by the interior and police secretary indicating that the strikers are part of a campaign to destabilize the public order. The priest said that the secretary is misinformed and the residents of Los Cacaos are demanding their just right. He said that the people who are truly involved in a conspiracy are those in the Dominican (?rice industry) due to their slowness in work.

The Cotui priest said that the police are strongly pressuring the peasants, submitting them to torture and (?cruelties). He said that those people who are truly conspiring are in the Dominican (?rice sector). (Jakes) then called Balaguer's attention to the situation so that the conflict could be resolved.

Armed Forces Denial of Anti-Government Plan
FL2702152089 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1217 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Armed Forces Secretary Lieutenant General Elias Wessin y Wessin has said that he does not know of any national plan to discredit the government. Wessin y Wessin was asked about the plan which was denounced by Interior and Police Secretary Juan Rafael Peralta Perez who said that certain sectors adverse to the government are carrying out a campaign to discredit it.

Wessin y Wessin was interviewed at the end of the ceremony marking the 145th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's independence. The lieutenant general said that the situation in the country is absolutely normal, except for a few strikes. The Armed Forces secretary then said:

"I do not know of any such plan. I can tell you that the country is completely normal. There is no problem anywhere in the country."

Lt Gen Wessin y Wessin said that the incidents in Cotui were magnified by the media.

[Wessin y Wessin] "Everything in Cotui (?is normal), thank God. [Words indistinct] Armed Forces what was published on the events."

Government Criticizes General Electric's Actions
FL2702145589 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The General Electric company has tried to turn over the (Itado) No 2 plant to the government without putting it through the appropriate tests. The company is hiding behind several clauses in the contract that it signed with the state. According to a report published in the HOY newspaper, General Electric tried to release itself from its commitment to the Dominican Electricity Corporation [CDE] because of the plant's power failures.

General Electric said that the outages of the (Itado) No 2 plant could result in not meeting the terms of the contract regarding the way in which the foreign company should present the plant to the government. The company says failures at the thermoelectric plant are due to the accidents that occurred during construction, which will be made (?public).

The maneuver that General Electric will use to distance itself from the (Itado) No 2 plant was not confirmed by the CDE. Nevertheless, it was reported that when the government learned of this yesterday, Presidency Secretary Rafael Bello Andino called the General Electric executives foolish. He criticized the attitude of the executives for not putting the plant on-line because of a piece of measuring equipment [medidor] that will come from abroad but which the CDE offered to provide to the foreign firm.

Teachers Wages May Be Returned to Treasury
FL2402182789 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1148 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Secretary of State for Finance Roberto Martinez has said that if the teachers do not collect their pay and the education secretary opts to return their wages, he will have no alternative but to return the wages to the National Treasury. Martinez said that the teachers' wages were remitted to education authorities but if employees do not claim their wages after a certain time, they will be returned. Martinez said:

"All public administration wages that are not collected by employees will be returned to the Treasury. This applies to teachers, as well as to the entire public administration sector. This is a guideline which we apply to the letter."

Education Secretary Pedro Pichardo yesterday said that if the teachers do not go back to work, they will not be able to collect their pay and their wages will be returned to the National Treasury. Pichardo called on the teachers to go back to work and he said that those who do not work, do not get paid. He threatened to return all the teachers' wages if the teachers are not back to the classroom 3 days after 25 February.

The finance secretary said that this measure is natural and it applies to all departments. It does not mean that the workers are being denied their money; instead, the wages are retained until the employee decides to withdraw his pay. Finance Secretary Martinez said:

"If they do not want to collect their pay, the Education Secretariat's accounting department is required to return the wages to the Treasury. Their salaries will be held in the National Treasury until the workers claim their pay."

Education Secretary Meets With Teachers

FL2802135789 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1216 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Education Secretary Lic Pedro Pichardo has called on the teachers who have been on strike for almost 2 weeks to set aside their attitudes and give up their positions. Pichardo said that the government has yielded its position to the public school teachers by accepting compromises.

The education secretary presided over the meeting between leaders of the Dominican Association of Teachers and Guillermo Caram, technical secretary of the Presidency. He said that Caram, on behalf of the government, favorably received the teachers' proposals on their demands.

Lic Pichardo said that he will be the greatest defender of the teachers' demands on promotions and increased salaries. The education secretary said: I am the greatest defender of these two things and I want the teachers to have this. However, they must understand that this cannot be attained from a strike. If they feel that the government has softened its position by receiving proposals, then I think the teachers should also soften their position.

Pichardo reiterated his decision that the teachers on strike should not be paid a single centavo of their monthly salary. He said that he will ask the finance secretary to not pay the teachers for the days they did not work.

Investigations Director Unaware of Destabilization

FL2802145489 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1221 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The director of the National Department of Investigations, DNI, Retired General (Santo del Antonio Chapel Suero), has asked Interior and Police Secretary Mr Juan Rafael Peralta Perez to provide proof to support his statements that there are plans to destabilize the public order. The DNI director said that his department is not aware of any plans to disrupt the peace.

The director called on the interior secretary to present the DNI with evidence so that it can conduct an investigation. If he has proof, he should give it to me, said the DNI director, then we will proceed accordingly.

The director was interviewed as he was proceeding to the main hall of the National Assembly.

Last Thursday [23 February], Peralta Perez said that plans exist to disrupt the country's peace and public order.

Hours after Peralta Perez' remarks, Armed Forces Secretary Major General [rank as heard] Elias Wessin y Wessin said that the military has no proof of any plans in the country to disrupt the public order.

Chamber of Deputies Approves Six Agreements

FL2802164789 Santo Domingo Radio Mil Network in Spanish 1629 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Chamber of Deputies today began its 1989 regular session by ratifying six cultural, scientific, and technical agreements signed by the Dominican state with several other countries. The agreements were approved in only 5 minutes. They were signed on different dates by the Dominican Republic with Bolivia, Spain, Italy, and the (Fredir Durban) Foundation of Italy.

The scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation agreements were approved without debate, although the deputies received a report from a special commission that worked hard on these agreements and conducted its own studies on these accords.

The agreements were introduced during the last legislature and they had been approved by the Senate.

Haiti

Anti-Avril, Pro-Aristide Demonstration 4 March

FL2802180889 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Excerpt] The Revolutionary Committee of Unemployed Haitians [Komite Revolisyone Chome Ayisyen] is planning a demonstration for Saturday, 4 March 1989, at 1000 in front of Saint Jean Bosco Church. The committee says the demonstration is, first, to get the Avril/Heubreux government to step down and, next, to ask that Father [Jean Bertrand] Aristide be taken back into the Salesian Order before Easter. [passage omitted]

Gressier Conflict Continues Over New Cartel

FL2702171289 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Excerpts] A big conflict broke out in Gressier commune last December and has been going on ever since. The Ministry of Interior appointed a new magistrate cartel, removing the cartel headed by (Valcius Estinval). (Estinval's) supporters declared that they protested and demonstrated in the streets, blocked roads, and shut down city hall in order to prevent the new cartel from being installed.

In this case, the Ministry of Interior backed off. It showed its impotence and incompetence. It has been unable to install the new cartel. Furthermore, on 31 January, (Estinval's) supporters burned down the Gressier marketplace; and neither the Interior Ministry nor the police—nor, for that matter, the Justice Department—said a word about it.

Today, (Estinval), who admits that they really were his supporters who burned down the marketplace, is going to rebuild it, says our correspondent.

Also, a group of people clad in olive green robbed the house of a chapel director in the Cormier area. Two people have been wounded.

[Leogane correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon] [Passage omitted] Reconstruction of the Gressier marketplace, which was set on fire exactly 22 days ago, began a few weeks ago. Former Gressier magistrate (Valcius Estinval) admitted in an interview with us, that they were his supporters who set fire to the marketplace.

[Begin recording] [(Estinval)] Yes. And three-fourths of the people of Gressier are my supporters.

[Unidentified reporter] Thus you admit that your supporters burned down the Gressier marketplace? I see that it is now being rebuilt. Did the government ask you to rebuild it? Or was it you who took it upon yourself to rebuild it?

[(Estinval)] It was not the government that asked me to build it. I had promised to do it. But the people.... [changes thought] There is something that happened. This was a psychological thing. I had said I would build the marketplace. I had blueprints and everything. As you know, there were a number of intrigues, and the cartel they put in (?obtained support from its sponsor) and got rid of me. The population saw that it was going to lose the marketplace. And I think they (?burned) it to see if the other cartel could build them a marketplace.

Since I deplored the act, and also since there wasn't really a marketplace—just a lot of straw.... [changes thought] Not enough people lost anything. [sentence as heard] All there was was a bunch of straw. So I said I would rebuild it, amid all that straw that was burned. So I have started.

[Reporter] If I understand correctly, you are saying that the people didn't lose their merchandise?

[(Estinval)] No, there was never any merchandise lost. I mean, it happened in broad daylight, and it was the straw that burned. It's like putting a tire in the road and setting fire to it, you know? If it hadn't been for the straw there would have been nothing. All there was was straw. There was no marketplace or warehouse lost. That is all a lie. And if the radios wanted to be absolutely sure, they should.... [changes thought] Suppose someone had gone to a marketplace and lost his stuff. Don't you think he would have totally freaked out? Wouldn't he have gone on the radio, sent press releases and so forth, to say he had lost his stuff? Someone who was minding his own business who lost his stuff?

So, as you can understand, there are many radios and newspapers that say that the marketplace burned down. But Gressier has never had a marketplace. It has a marketplace site, but has never had a marketplace. [end recording]

[Napoleon] Thus, the conflict that has existed since December between the current magistrate, (Lovince Romulus), who has never been able to take office, and (Valcius Estinval), is still not over. [passage omitted]

Magistrate Cartel Installed

FL2702174489 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by correspondent Jean Wilfrid Napoleon]

[Excerpts] The Ministry of Interior on Thursday 23 February installed a new magistrate cartel in the commune of Gressier. Roland Bertrand, who was a member of the (Valcius Estinval) cartel, is the president of this new cartel. The other two members are (Felix Jean Antoinier) and (Gary Sanon). [passage omitted]

There are rumors circulating to the effect that it is (Estinval) who chose this new magistrate cartel. Is this true?

[Begin Bertrand recording] No, this is not true. (Estinval) cannot appoint us. He is not a minister or a chief of state [words indistinct] in the country. (Estinval) is a civilian. How could he appoint us? It is the population who chose us, first of all. And the Department of Interior and President Avril did what was necessary to satisfy the desiderata of the population. [end recording]

In any case, certain people in Gressier think much crooked wheeling and dealing went on in favor of this newly installed cartel. They say they are going to watch to see how the cartel does.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] I'm not saying a word about this.

[Unidentified reporter] Well, why not?

[Speaker] Because in my opinion, there would have to be a communique in order for them to come install another cartel because I know there is already a cartel operating in Gressier. So, as Father Thomas says: I'm observing. [end recording] [passage omitted]

New Interior Minister Colonel Acedius Saint-Louis has thus appointed a new cartel headed by Roland Bertrand, putting an end to this conflict that has existed in Gressier for the past 2 months.

This is Jean Wilfrid Napoleon, Radio Soleil, Leogane.

CEH Issues Communique on Radio Soleil

FL2802180189 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Communique issued by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti (CEH) on 27 February from CEH Headquarters]

[Text] The bishops take this opportunity of the meeting of the CEH to give God's people some important information concerning Radio Soleil.

The contract between the Scheut Order and the CEH for Father Hugo to become director of Radio Soleil for 3 years, 1985-1988, was coming to its end. Father Hugo wrote, on 25 April 1988, a letter of resignation.

The CEH, in a letter dated 20 December 1988, asked the Scheut Order to allow Father Hugo to continue working past 1 January 1989. Father Hugo's provincial superior, in a letter to the CEH dated 29 December 1988, proposed that the contract be extended for 3 more months—January, February, and March 1989—to allow the CEH to find a solution.

The CEH agreed to have Father Hugo remain director of the radio station for 3 months. The bishops continued to take steps to find a solution. And that is where we are today.

The bishops are doing everything they can to see to it that Radio Soleil continues its mission of evangelizing and educating the population and providing it with accurate information and good entertainment.

This communique comes from the headquarters of the CEH this 27th day of February 1989.

Student Strikes at 2 Schools Enter 3d Day

FL2802183089 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Excerpts] School has still not resumed at Lycee des Jeunes Filles in Port-au-Prince. For the 3d consecutive day the school is not open.

The students had begun protesting over the permanent expulsion of three students in mid-year. They then began demanding that the director resign. This morning, the students were noisily expressing their dissatisfaction in the lycee's courtyard and chanting slogans hostile to the lycee's director [Mrs Alphonse Desulme]. [passage omitted]

[Announcer switches to Creole] [Passage omitted] There are also problems at the lycee in Hinche. You will recall that our Hinche correspondent last Thursday announced that the lycee in Hinche was closed because the students were protesting against the way school authorities were running the school. This morning, the students in Hinche took to the streets.

[Correspondent Alex Joseph] On Monday, 27 February 1989, the students of Lycee Dumarsais Estime in Hinche held a big peaceful demonstration in Hinche to protest the presence of departmental (?director) (Reynold Eustache) at the head of the education department in the central plateau—and to protest against a teacher, (Vieppe Alcidor). The students demanded that Mr (Eustache) be removed, accusing him of being a crooked wheeler-dealer. They also protested against teacher (Vieppe Alcidor), who was to have come to Hinche to teach back in November and who has never set foot in the school.

In a truly peaceful climate, the students carried placards reading: Down with (Vieppe); The district is not a garbage dump; The district will not open as long as (Eustache) is around; The central plateau is not a garbage dump; and We don't want Eustache. [passage omitted]

This is the 3d consecutive day of strike at Lycee Dumarsais Estime in Hinche. [passage omitted]

In a press release delivered to us by the Association of Teachers of the Upper Central Plateau [Asosyasyon Ansyeyan O Plato Santral la], they say that this is the third time in the 1988-89 school year that Lycee Dumarsais Estime has been shut down. They say they support all the students' demands. They say to the students that they will continue to support them because their demands are quite just.

This is Alex Joseph in Hinche for Radio Metropole. [passage omitted]

Work Stoppage at National University Hospital

FL2802184489 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Report by Mobile Unit 19]

[Text] There was a work stoppage—one could say a partial paralysis of activities—this morning at the National University Hospital of Haiti [also know as the General Hospital] following threats made against resident doctors Saturday night by four armed individuals. We remind listeners that a similar incident occurred at this same hospital on the Sunday before Mardi Gras, and the resident doctors and interns had on that occasion gone on a 24-hour strike on the following day, Monday.

According to the resident doctors, this strike movement might continue tomorrow. We will have more details on this strike on Soir Actualites [Metropole's 1800 GMT newscast].

This is Mobile Unit 19 for Radio Metropole.

Jamaica

Manley Meets With Barbados' Prime Minister

FL2802220389 Bridgetown CANA in English
1832 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 28, CANA—The Jamaican and Barbadian prime ministers discussed regional issues for nearly an hour in Kingston Monday night and pledged to work to strengthen the Caribbean Community and Common Market (Caricom), officials here said.

The talks between the Jamaican leader Michael Manley and Erskine Sandiford came a few days ahead of what informed officials in Kingston say will be "a clear signal" from Kingston that the new administration here intended to keep its pledge to work for the rejuvenation of Caricom.

Government officials declined to be specific on what the signal will be, but other sources say that a senior member of the government was planning a trip to some Caricom member countries.

"I think they might not want to announce it as yet because all the plans are not yet finalised and all the other governments are not fully briefed," an informed souce said.

Sandiford arrived here Monday afternoon with what Kingston officials say was little advance warning, for talks with Manley and University of the West Indies (UWI) Vice Chancellor Alister McIntyre. But it was a welcomed move for Manley "who has made Caricom an integral part of Jamaica's development thrust and has been sending strong signals to the region," an official said.

Manley, who returned as prime minister in the February 9 general elections, had often criticised his predecessor, Edward Seaga, for not paying enough attention to Caricom.

According to the official statement on the Manley/Sandiford talks, the prime ministers discussed "a wide range of issues" on the agenda for the next Caricom summit in Grenada in July. Among the issues they looked at were intraregional trade and the deepening of functional cooperation. "Mr Sandiford also congratulated the prime minister on his new administration and said he looked forward to close cooperation for the benefit of the region," the statement said.

Manley, it said, "expressed appreciation and restated his government's absolute commitment to the development of the region".

Prior to the meeting Sandiford presented Manley with two cheques for more than J500,000 dollars for hurricane rehabilitation here. One of the cheques, for J273,000 dollars was a donation from the Barbados Government, while the other for J236,000 was raised through a public appeal, sponsored by the Voice of Barbados [VOB] radio station.

Part of the money raised by VOB will go to the Univeristy of the West Indies.

Former Transport Minister To Lead Party's Left

FL2702225789 Bridgetown CANA in English
2244 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 27, CANA—Former Transport Minister Pearnel Charles, has been quoted here as signalling a move to the left of his rightist Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) to fill what he says is a centre-left void.

Charles, a JLP deputy leader who narrowly retained his East St Thomas Parliamentary seat during this months PNP [People's National Party] landslide victory, was quoted Monday by the JAMAICA RECORD newspaper as saying that the centre-left position was "where the championing of the working class exists". But with the PNP's election and what had been emerging since, he told a function organised by well-wishers Sunday, the centre-left position had become vacant. "I'm a pragmatist and this will expose my flexibility to move on a path that has national interest and peoples' interest at the forefront," Charles was quoted as saying.

Neither Charles nor senior JLP officials could be contacted Monday for comment on the reported remarks. But the statement was seen here as less-than-veiled criticism of the leadership of the JLP, which spent 8 years in office under former Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

JLP chairman, Bruce Golding, told reporters last week that Seaga, a conservative whose centralised leadership style and seemingly aloof personality often brought him criticism, had the full support of the party. "We do not believe that leadership was a factor in our defeat," Golding said. "...we don't believe that if the ship falters because it runs into rough seas that we must throw the captain overboard."

However, Charles was quoted as saying that there would have to be many changes in the JLP to reflect the image of its founder, national hero, Sir Alexander Bustamante. "This has to be so that people will feel that you're working in their interest," he was quoted as saying.

Analysts here saw Charles conjuring of the image of Bustamante as a suggestion that the JLP needed to be more closely-identified with the working class.

Bustamante first made his mark as a labour leader, being at the forefront of the social foment of the late 1930's, founding a trade union which today still bears his name.

In later years, the JLP has developed a reputation of being for the "big man"—the wealthy and powerful—a perception which Seaga said helped to lose the election.

According to Seaga, the perception was undeserved, for his government had introduced more programmes to benefit the poor than any other in the history of Jamaica. Seaga said that his government was forced to implement austerity in the mid 1980's to deal with an international economic recession that hurt Jamaica. But it was the poor who mostly felt effects of the belt-tightening and the cut back in spending on social services.

Charles, who said that the JLP will also have to do more to sell its programme to the people, said that Jamaicans had alerted the JLP government to "a red light" with the 1986 municipal elections.

The PNP won those elections by a landslide, but according to Charles the government did not "return a signal" to the people.

Charles did not explain why he felt the democratic socialist PNP had left a void in the centre-left position, but the left here have argued that the PNP has in recent years been drifting to the right to appease Washington and powerful business interest here.

Washington had pressured the Manley administration of the 1970's, because of Jamaica's relationship with Cuba and the prime minister's emergence as a leading spokesman for the Third World.

Manley has said that he has not changed his underlying philosophy as a social democrat, but tactics have had to change to accomodate the new realities of the world.

Members of the formerly strong PNP leftwing have lost influential positions in the party and Manley has sought to make peace with Washington. Since the election, Manley has been naming mostly party moderates to ministries and key institutions, as well as appointing to para-statal agencies members of the business community with which he quarreled during the 1970's.

Charles, in his remarks, made clear that he would work for strong, but reasonable opposition that would not create undue antagonisms and tensions in the society. "I am not going to join any bandwagon to destroy Jamaica for any political reason," he was quoted as saying. Once there was no malice or victimisation he would work in an environment of "competitive cooperation", Charles said.

Cuauhtemoc Cardenas Refuses To Join PARM

PA2302144789 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 20 Feb 89 p 5

[Report by Richard Sampson]

[Text] Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said Saturday he would not accept an offer from president of the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), Carlos Enrique Cantu Rosas, to join forces under the PARM banner. The former presidential candidate told throngs of supporters that the project for the new Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) needed to establish a collective direction, and register with the government under the PRD banner. During Cardenas' tour of Hidalgo over the weekend, he was greeted warmly by crowds reportedly larger than those that welcomed him when he toured the state during the presidential campaign. He told supporters at various demonstrations that the popular movement spawned by his presidential campaign continues to grow, and that there is hope in the countryside that conditions can be improved.

Economic Modernization Plans Announced

PA2602031589 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 21 Feb 89

[Text] During the closing ceremony a few minutes ago of the 48th annual assembly of the National Association of the Processing Industry [CANACINTRA], over which President Carlos Salinas de Gortari presided, important announcements were made regarding the modernization of industrial policy. Revenues Under Secretary Franciso Gil Diaz explained plans to regulate the 2 percent tax on business assets. His comments were well received by industrialists.

Among the plans mentioned were the following: Businesses which as a result of major increases in assets become eligible for temporary income tax exemptions will also be exempt from the 2 percent tax in the same period. Investments will become subject to the tax 3 years after they become operative, and private companies and associations will be subject to the tax only when most of their income comes from mercantile activities. Thus, a large number of taxpayers with narrow profit margins will be exempt from this tax.

During the meeting, Secretary of Commerce Jaime Serra Puche announced that the Commerce Secretariat will take strict measures to ensure that imports meet the same quality requirements applied to local products. Sierra Puche added that this will protect the industrial sector and guarantee fair competition between local and international producers. Secretary Serra Puche said that it is necessary to begin a concerted effort now to promote sustained economic growth.

On presenting his operational report, CANACINTRA President (Jose Cawachi) warned that our beloved country's future can only be ensured if Mexicans take firm control of the nation's development. He said in closing that without an expansion of the internal market, based on a real increase in wages and productivity, it will be impossible to revitalize the country's production as a whole.

Executive Branch Reports Foreign Debt Figures

PA2702234589 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 21 Feb 89 p 14

[All figures as published]

[Summary] The Executive Branch yesterday issued a report on the state of Mexico's economy and the federal government's public debt for the last quarter of 1988. The report emphasizes that reductions in spending and an increase in the federal government's revenues—plus the revenues from the sale of parastate enterprises—made it possible to control the budget deficit.

During the 4th quarter of 1988, the foreign debt service rose to $3.055 billion—$1.660 billion in amortization of the principal and $1.394 billion in interest. The payment on the principal includes $137 million paid to international financial organizations, $357 million in bonds, $276 million paid by the parastate sector to bilateral organizations, $482 million for the renegotiated debt, and $407 million paid to suppliers and to commercial banks.

Regarding the federal government's internal debt, the report says the balance due as of 31 December 1988 was 108.9 trillion pesos, a 12.8-percent increase over the balance reported on 30 September 1988. The federal government's net internal debt during the last quarter of 1988 was 9.6 trillion pesos, and the accumulated debt during 1988 was 44.8 trillion pesos.

Costa Rica

Terrorist Group Uncovered; Libyan Link Alleged

PA0103000389 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2245 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] San Jose, 28 Feb (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican official sources reported today that an alleged terrorist group was disbanded before it began to operate. The group reportedly had foreign support.

Although they have not ended their investigation, officials said they have "details" indicating that the "extremist group's" goal was to disrupt peace in the country.

An in-depth investigation has indicated a possible connection between the "plotters" and the Libyan Government, which might have provided them with political education and paramilitary training.

The police, which have closely followed the movements of the local group, do not discount the possibility that the group was financed "by Libya, Cuba, or Nicaragua." The police believe, however, that most of the group's funds were obtained through bank robberies in neighboring countries, especially Panama.

Costa Rican authorities suspect last year's holdup of the Bank of Spain in Chiriqui Province, Panama was carried out by this group. The Bank of Spain robbery was carried out by a group of Panamanians and Costa Ricans in August 1988. One of the robbers was Domingo Solis Solis, whom the Costa Rican police link to "leftist revolutionary groups."

The robbers who held up the Chiriqui bank stole a large amount of money, but they were unable to escape because Panamanian officials blocked the road to the Costa Rican border. During a shoot-out in the mountains, Panamanian officials killed two of the bank robbers and arrested the rest of the band.

It is not known where Solis is at present. There are rumors that he went to Cuba or Nicaragua after escaping from jail or that he may have been released. Other unofficial reports say that he is still in jail and that the Panamanian police are "maintaining total secrecy" on the matter.

El Salvador

Further Reaction to Duarte Proposal Reported

PDC Expresses Support

PA2802140889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] has expressed its total support for President Duarte's peace proposal to the guerrillas. The PDC, through its candidates, voiced support for all the options included in President Duarte's proposal. However, they first expounded at length about a plebiscite on 19 March and then about an agreement among the three branches of government to delay the elections.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] There is a precedent for this: In 1944, the three branches of government agreed to substantially change the Constitution. At that time, there was debate over whether the 1939 Constitution or the 1944 reforms were valid. They established a framework to solve a serious problem. There are similar facts and precedents in our country's history.

We believe the plebiscite is a totally democratic solution. The important thing to make clear is that if there is an opportunity for peace, we must seek it. Although a plebiscite is not expressly included in our Constitution, it is not absolutely unconstitutional. [end recording]

The PDC believes that the document signed in Mexico by all the country's political parties, including the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA], is the main guarantee that President Duarte's proposal will have positive effects.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] The political parties said: We commit ourselves to consider the FMLN proposal as a whole and to offer our contribution toward whatever is necessary for the peace effort. Therefore, the parties stated one thing abroad. I also have here the statements made abroad by ARENA representatives, who clearly said they would be flexible concerning the date of the elections. [end recording]

The PDC candidates insisted that they are not trying to obtain a political advantage through a delay in the elections, but are attempting to make possible an agreement to achieve peace in El Salvador. They said this objective demands an unanimous decision by all Salvadorans.

FMLN Replies to Proposal

PA2802160389 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1506 GMT 28 Feb 89

["Official position of the FMLN General Command on the counterproposals presented by Napoleon Duarte in the last few hours"; issued in El Salvador on 27 February—recorded]

[Text] The FMLN views as positive the willingness expressed by Eng Duarte to hold a meeting between the government, our front, and the political parties. The FMLN expresses our total willingness to hold this meeting as soon as possible.

For this purpose, we state that—just as it was proposed in the agreement with the parties—our peace proposal must be considered as a whole, although the meeting may have an open agenda to discuss all the proposals the other side wishes to submit.

Therefore, we believe it is necessary to demand and stress:

1. The government must publicly specify whether this meeting will discuss postponing the elections until 15 September and holding the elections with the Army confined to quarters, the end of repression, an electoral code by consensus, the reorganization of the Central Electoral Council, the establishment of a supervisory consensus [consenso fiscalizador], and a way established for Salvadorans abroad to vote. [San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish at 1515 GMT on 28 February broadcasts the FMLN reply to President Duarte's proposal. The reply is read over the phone to the radio station by Leiba Salvador Samayoa, member of the FMLN-FDR political diplomatic commission. The Radio Cadena YSU version is identical to the Radio Venceremos version, except that instead of "...establishment of a supervisory consensus [consenso fiscalizador], and a way...," the YSU version was broadcast as follows: "...establishment of a supervisory council [consejo fiscalizador], and a way..."]

2. Negotiations should be held for the establishment of a definite cease-fire in accordance with our offer, which entails mechanisms for holding trials for crimes committed by Army members, reducing the Army to 12,000 men, disbanding the security forces, and organizing a new civilian security force.

3. The meeting should be held in San Salvador; therefore, we feel it is necessary that a cease-fire be declared unilaterally by the two sides and that there be an immediate end of repression to generate conditions for the meeting. If there is a cease-fire, we see no reason why the meeting should be held abroad. The capital is the best place for a national agreement on peace among and in front of all Salvadorans. This would favor the participation of Eng Duarte. Holding this meeting abroad would mean a regression in what the people have already achieved in all previous dialogues.

4. We reiterate that we are prepared to discuss all the points the government may present.

5. We believe the meeting must have the status of a negotiations meeting for the purpose of reaching effective agreements and not just a meeting to exchange points of view. Correspondingly, our delegation would be headed by two members of the General Command.

We think the political parties—in addition to the government, the Armed Forces, deputies appointed by the Legislative Assembly, and the FMLN—must actively participate in this meeting to give continuity to the spirit and essence of the Mexico meeting.

Regarding the actions that have been proposed to overcome constitutional problems:

1. We approve of the plebiscite idea. The date of the plebiscite and the conditions under which it will take place must be mutually agreed on so it may truly contribute to peace. The sides and the political parties must be consulted regarding the questions that will be asked of the people so the plebiscite may be impartial, not misleading, and free of unfair controls.

2. We view the mechanism for agreement among the three branches of state as highly positive, and we believe that if in the past this mechanism permitted the derogation of a constitution and validated a new one, it could be useful now to promote peace by eliminating constitutional obstacles. It is clear there are no longer any obstacles preventing a postponement of the elections for as long as is necessary. Therefore, this mechanism must be implemented immediately to postpone the 19 March elections.

3. We call on the parties to withdraw their candidates to facilitate a solution to the constitutional problem.

The Christian Democratic Party [PDC] should be the one to set the example.

The FMLN General Command is ready to order a unilateral cease-fire to hold the meeting. We propose that this meeting be held on Saturday and Sunday, 4 and 5 March, at the Apostolic Nunciature or at the San Salvador Archbishopric's Office. We are awaiting Eng Duarte's response to the points of our proposal. We are thus giving a positive response to Duarte's proposal. However, we want to express our concern over the fact that certain points in his proposal run counter to the positive course that events have taken so far.

In this regard, we point out:

1. There is a clear intention to favor the PDC in the elections. This intention also has been noticed by the political parties. The PDC has the support of the Armed Forces in that direction. The proposal for 30 April elections, which was unanimously rejected at the Mexico meeting, would favor only the PDC and would make election fraud more possible.

2. There is an implicit lack of seriousness in the proposal for a unilateral cease-fire until 1 June. We do not understand why a definite cease-fire cannot be negotiated and agreed on when there is unilateral [as heard] willingness for a cease-fire. This situation leaves doubts as to how true is the stated willingness to agree on a real cease-fire that would represent a commitment by both sides in the eyes of the people and the world.

3. Mr Duarte's invariable pretense to secure our surrender is obvious in his proposal, and it has been demonstrated that this pretense is unrealistic, illogical, and impossible.

This pretense becomes very evident with his proposal for a rigid agenda that does not take into consideration our proposals.
[Signed] FMLN General Command
Commanders Leonel Gonzalez, Roberto Roca, Shafik Jorge Handal, Ferman Cienfuegos, Joaquin Villalobos
[The Radio Cadena YSU version signatory list is as follows: "Commanders Salvador Sanchez Ceren, Francisco Jovel, Shafik Jorge Handal, Eduardo Sancho, and Joaquin Villalobos," supplying real names in place of nommes de guerre.]
El Salvador, 27 February 1989

UDN Counterproposal Noted

PA0103013389 San Salvador Radio Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Statement by Mario Aguinada Carranza, secretary general of the Nationalist Democratic Union, UDN; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] We believe that Duarte's response is quite removed from the proposal made by the FMLN and also from the intentions of the political parties that met with the FMLN delegates in Mexico. It seems that Duarte is pursuing several objectives that reveal much about his actual willingness to achieve a political solution to this conflict. He is taking advantage of this opportunity to improve his election prospects. I will try to prove what I am saying now.

First, the FMLN made a serious proposal, which has received international and national support from many sectors because it could allow the elections to become a very important step toward the achievement of peace in El Salvador. The FMLN proposal calls for the postponement of elections until 15 September and lists a series of commitments that should be fulfilled by the FMLN, the government, the Armed Forces, and other government bodies. They are not conditions; they are demands that should be taken into account to enable the elections to be held with guarantees for all political parties, with freedom for everyone, and free of the flaws that have characterized the elections for many years. If the demands are met, no one would describe the elections as fraudulent and everyone would recognize the results as legitimate. This would allow El Salvador to enter a new phase in its history, leading to peace.

Political parties, during meetings held with the FMLN, became convinced of the proposal's potential for peace and they urged President Duarte and the Legislative Assembly to review the proposal. The political parties also committed themselves to doing everything within their power to contribute to the implementation of the proposal's contents. I say this because Duarte's proposal is quite [words indistinct].

First, he mentions the date 30 April, which had already been proposed by the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] in Mexico and which had already been rejected. Fidel Chavez Mena also mentioned that date. He is talking about purely partisan matters. In this instance, Duarte has not acted as a head of state. On the other hand, he turns his back on the demands made by the FMLN to guarantee an appropriate climate for the elections. He only takes into account three of the points mentioned by the FMLN and says that he is willing to discuss them during negotiations. The three points are: an end to the armed struggle, the return of the (?rebels) to political life, and the recognition of the existence of a single army. If we looked at the FMLN proposal, [words indistinct] the elections and the discussion of the other political and military issues—which are the only ones Duarte takes into account because they are the only ones that best suit his needs. He ends the possibility of postponing the elections and he mentions only the 30 April date, which is what best suits the PDC.

That is why I say that Duarte has not acted as a head of state but rather as a PDC member, and I will prove it. As president of the Republic, he should have discussed this with the other government bodies, especially with the Legislative Assembly, to review the political parties' proposal. However, he preferred to act precipitously and make an announcement on Sunday evening when no one is thinking about politics. Duarte came on the air and caught everyone by surprise and presented to the Legislative Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice [words indistinct]. He is not acting as a head of state; he is acting as a militant PDC member who wants every advantage for his party. Second, he is trying to get the ARENA [National Republican Alliance], which has a majority in the Legislative Assembly and the Supreme Court of Justice, to support the 30 April date, which best suits the PDC.

Duarte gives the ARENA the option of either supporting the 30 April date or of being the party that supports war. They [not further identified] had everything planned because we saw [PDC presidential candidate] Fidel Chavez Mena and [PDC vice presidential candidate] Roberto Barrientos in a news conference immediately after Duarte's announcement, and there are already radio and television advertisements making Chavez Mena appear to be the man of peace. They want ARENA to reject the 30 April date so that they can become the party to take advantage of the situation for election purposes. They also want, however, the FMLN to reject their proposal. Why? The government is not taking into account the entire FMLN proposal, just the points that suit it best. Therefore, it wants the FMLN to reject the government's proposal so that people would doubt the FMLN's commitment to peace.

That is why we describe Duarte's action as a political and electoral maneuver and not as an effort for peace. However, we believe he has fallen into his own trap. A month ago he rejected the FMLN proposal. Now he says that he is willing to discuss it. We make a formal call to the FMLN, to the political parties, and to the Salvadoran people to take Napoleon Duarte's word. We believe that the FMLN has acted correctly by agreeing to go to the

talks. We believe that the political parties should adopt a more active political stance, because Duarte wants them only to appear as observers. This should not be the case, because any decision to postpone the elections should necessarily be discussed among the political parties. The elections cannot be postponed if the Legislative Assembly does not discuss it first. Why does Napoleon Duarte want the political parties to be observers when they should be active participants in this entire process?

We believe that to overcome this problem the FMLN should first agree to participate in the talks. The FMLN should list its demands and viewpoints. On the other hand, we believe we should implement the plan of action that we are now proposing. This plan needs the political support of all sectors involved and it includes the following steps and measures:

1. An agreement among all political parties to postpone the elections until after 1 (?July).

2. An agreement among all political parties to withdraw all registered candidates no later than 10 March 1989 to contribute to the postponement of the elections.

3. The Legislative Assembly's approval of a new date to hold presidential elections after 1 (?July).

4. To hold open debates, which may be through open town councils, to ratify the Legislative Assembly's decision to postpone the elections until after 1 (?July). Therefore, the people will have an active participation in the open town council meeting, which is very common among our people and does not need any special legislation.

5. The political parties should immediately [word indistinct] until 19 March to discuss legal and political matters that should be reformed to guarantee completely free elections. I am talking about matters such as reforms to the electoral code, reorganization of the central elections council, the creation of an honorable body in charge of supervision, organizing international supervision, and taking the necessary steps so that Salvadorans abroad can vote. All this should be done before 19 March.

6. Before 19 March, the government and the Armed Forces should carry out negotiations with the FMLN to reach a cease-fire, an end to repression, the return to the barracks of troops from both sides, and the resolution of the case of the mayors [threatened by the guerrillas]. During the same period of time, cease-fire discussions should begin, the FMLN guerrillas should return to political life, and the existence of a single army should be recognized.

Attorney General Comments

PA2802185889 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1743 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] [No dateline as received] Salvadoran Attorney General Roberto Garcia Alvarado has termed "unconstitutional" and "counterproductive" President Jose Napoleon Duarte's proposal to move the 19 March presidential elections to 30 April.

The attorney general said that breaking the constitutional order would permit "a people's insurrection and a coup d'etat."

According to Garcia, postponing the presidential elections opens the possibility of the country reaching 1 June, when President Duarte ends his constitutional period, without a legally elected president.

The official, interviewed by a television station today, argued that "the authorities already announced the elections, and the dates will not be changed."

Garcia was appointed by the Legislative Assembly, controlled by the rightist National Republican Alliance, in late 1988. He described the proposal Duarte presented on 26 February as a "propagandistic delaying tactic." The Salvadoran president proposed beginning direct negotiations with the guerrillas.

Duarte urged the FMLN to begin direct talks to end the conflict and admitted that there is a possibility of postponing the presidential elections if a consensus is reached in the Legislative Assembly and the political parties.

Duarte's proposal is a response to an offer presented by the guerrillas in late January suggesting the elections be postponed to 15 September.

Armed Forces Announce 3-Month Cease-Fire

PA0103040189 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0314 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report by Ernesto Rivas]

[Text] The Armed Forces announced today that they are suspending military operations until 1 June. It was explained that this momentous decision was made in support of President Duarte's peace proposal.

Colonel Galileo Torres, head of Coprefa, said the nationwide suspension of military operations was being carried out in support of the peace proposal presented by President Napoleon Duarte over the national radio and television network on Sunday. According to a military report, the suspension of operations will go into effect at midnight and remain in effect until 1 June.

[Begin recording] [Torres] I believe the Salvadoran people should know that the Armed Forces want a stable peace within a constitutional framework. For this reason, this is an effort to demonstrate to the Salvadoran people and the international community that the Armed Forces support all peace plans promoted by the government. Therefore, effective at midnight, the Armed Forces will implement a unilateral halt of hostilities. In other words, the Armed Forces will carry out operations only at military installations, centers of population, and other areas where we will provide only security.

[Reporter] Colonel, how long will this suspension of hostilities last?

[Torres] As you know, the president has made a counterproposal to the FMLN. We hope that the president's offer will be accepted and that the suspension will last until 1 June, as he has proposed. [end recording]

Despite the Armed Forces' decision, Col Torres described the FMLN proposal as a deathbed political solution that reveals the rebels' total military impotence. He added that the insurgents are trying to save face because they have received no international support from the OAS, the United Nations, or the Central American presidents' summit, which have extended no support to the guerrillas.

In addition, Col Torres emphasized that the suspension of operations could be broken if the insurgents carry out harassment actions, because the Armed Forces will react immediately.

The last military action involving the Armed Forces was the guerrilla attack on Army positions near the telecommunications center in El Picacho.

Assembly, Political Parties Hold Talks

PA0103044789 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0317 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] The deadlines given by President Duarte to meet with the FMLN to agree on a cease-fire did not influence the meeting held between political parties and the Legislative Assembly. The only agreement reached after 3 hours of work was to ask the government to meet with the legislative branch to study the feasibility of fulfilling the commitments made by the political parties in Mexico.

[Begin unidentified speaker recording] On this occasion, we have agreed on the following:

1. By meeting with the executive and the legislative branches, we have fulfilled the first part of the commitment we made in Oaxtepec.

2. We have suggested that the executive and legislative branches hold a meeting to jointly determine the most suitable way to implement the second point of the Oaxtepec declaration.

3. The political parties are willing to attend the meeting on the place and date agreed upon by the government and the FMLN. Our presence at such a meeting will be active and we will not serve as simple observers. [end recording]

The high-level political party delegations attending the meeting were unable to resolve the differences resulting from their electoral ambitions. The Legislative Assembly has not yet responded to President Duarte's request to join the government delegation that will hold a dialogue with the FMLN. Nothing was said about the guerrilla counterproposal to hold talks in San Salvador this weekend, much less about the cease-fire announced today by the Armed Forces in open support of the government proposal.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] The fact is that the president's proposal increases the pile of paperwork we have received on the FMLN proposal, the UDN [Nationalist Democratic Union] proposal presented today, and the corresponding [FMLN] response. The political parties are withdrawing to analyze all those documents.

[Second unidentified speaker] The president could not have acted more quickly. The president has acted very quickly. He presented his proposal on Sunday and offered a cease-fire. He has fulfilled his commitment. We expect the other parties involved in this—namely the Legislative Assembly, the FMLN, and the political parties—to act with the same alacrity. I believe that the Salvadoran people should demand that others follow the president's example and take action quickly and in a positive way to reach peace.

[First unidentified speaker] It is obvious that if the political parties actually want to make peace a reality in the short term, we should give clear evidence of this. It is obvious that at this time the right solution would be for everyone to withdraw their candidates. Political parties have not yet reached a consensus on this. This only shows that there is as yet no unanimous desire among the political parties to put peace before partisan interests. [end recording]

The political parties agreed to meet on Thursday to study President Duarte's proposal and the FMLN response, particularly because there is agreement on the date for the elections. For now, and as long as there is no agreement among the political parties, it can be expected that the elections will be held on the scheduled date. ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] members did not comment on the meeting, but we have learned that they were meeting with the Christian Democratic Party. Therefore, it is quite possible that in the next few hours we will learn about a new proposal in response to the FMLN proposal.

CD's Ungo Supports Election Postponement

PA2402223389 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] The Democratic Convergence [CD] has pointed out that the commitments made in Mexico oblige the political parties to find a solution to the FMLN proposal of postponing the presidential elections. According to Dr. Guillermo Ungo, all of the parties should withdraw their candidates so that the elections will be held after 19 March.

The CD feels that the agreements signed by the political parties in Mexico could be interpreted differently than the way the ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] has interpreted them. According to Dr Ungo, the parties are committed to seek a political formula that will make feasible the FMLN proposal to hold elections 5 months after hostilities end.

[Begin Ungo recording] The political parties should promote and create the conditions for postponing the elections by withdrawing their registered candidates. However, that is not enough, and the consensus reached in Oaxtepec, Mexico was that the peace proposal must be accepted, discussed, and approved by the state branches, particularly by the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Branch; that is, the Presidency of the Republic. There was a consensus for asking the political parties to develop the proposal and to try to find a final and constructive solution. [end recording]

The CD feels that a meeting between the FMLN and the government does not relieve the political parties of the responsibility of seeking peace, particularly those having their share of power in the state branches. If the presidential candidates are not withdrawn prior to the elections, the CD will keep its candidates registered to prevent being left out of the elections.

ARENA Opposes Postponing Elections

PA2502165889 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] The ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] leadership stated this morning that the elections will be held on 19 March. They also ruled out any political agreement between the political parties for withdrawing their presidential nominations.

ARENA said there is no reason to postpone the elections unless the state decides otherwise. Armando Calderon Sol, who headed the ARENA delegation at the Mexico meeting, insisted that the political parties do not have the power to decide on the basic points of the FMLN proposal. Therefore, he said, the executive and legislative branches are responsible for deciding on this proposal.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] I strongly state that the elections will be held on 19 March. Why, you ask? Because the branches of government have to decide on this, and they decided on that date. The elections in our country are not arranged by ARENA or any political party, but by the state. As the declaration says, the state decides these issues. [end recording]

Calderon Sol stated that in Mexico the FMLN delegation provided information that rules out any guerrilla involvement in the murder of Ricardo Rodriguez, the ARENA leader in Cuscatlan Department. Without naming names, Calderon Sol blamed the death on another group that engages in institutionalized violence to reach its goals.

[Begin Calderon Sol recording] The FMLN has assured us that it did not kill our leader in Cuscatlan Department. The FMLN has assured us the FMLN had nothing to do with the death of Tato [nickname for Ricardo] Rodriguez, the democratic man of ARENA and our top leader in Cuscatlan. The FMLN had nothing to do with the horrible murder of the great man who was and is Rodriguez, who for us will live forever. Tato Rodriguez wanted the overall improvement of all Salvadorans and the fatherland. [end recording]

Calderon Sol also demanded that the Christian Democratic government adopt a more firm stand in fighting street violence and vandalism, such as that staged yesterday by FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation]. He said that as long as the FMLN does not put an end to its military action, there is no sense in promoting a meeting between the guerrillas and the government, as was agreed upon during the meeting in Mexico.

Armed Forces Increase Security Measures 23 Feb

PA2502200889 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 40

[Text] San Salvador's reserve command announced today that special troops from the Army's elite battalions are prepared to counteract street riots, the destruction of vehicles and stores, and other vandalism that many "front" groups are planning.

Our source explained that in addition to the security forces' riot troops, which usually control demonstrations, more than 2,000 men specially trained in counterinsurgency from the "Libertadores, Swatt, PRAM [expansion unknown], 15 September, Atlacatl, Belloso, Bracamonte, the Salvadoran Air Force Airborne-2," and other battalions are already strategically placed throughout the capital and are equipped to remain in an emergency status for approximately 2 weeks.

Our source added that the Armed Forces have been informed "first hand" that mass organizations are coordinating the movement of people—especially peasants and children—from various parts of the countryside—from areas such as Cuscatancingo, Ciudad Delgado, Soyapango, San Marcos, Mejicanos, and communities west and north of the capital—to San Salvador. They will be used as needed to reinforce demonstrations set to take place this weekend.

It is important, our source pointed out, for citizens to remain alert to this situation. No one, absolutely no one, should leave home without identification, so in case of an emergency they will not be faced with problems at Army checkposts or when stopped by control units.

The source concluded that the security forces have been instructed to increase vehicle and personal searches, especially of people traveling on interdepartmental buses from the northern and eastern parts of the country, as well as pedestrians carrying knapsacks, satchels, or other types of bags. The Armed Forces, our source said, apologize for the inconvenience this may create but, they said, "it is necessary to safeguard honest citizens and protect private and state property."

Police Stop 'Violent' FENASTRAS Rally

PA2502000789 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 23 Feb 89 p 3

[Text] A group of people staged violent demonstrations yesterday that ended with a meeting in front of the FENASTRAS [Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation] offices. The demonstrators, whose faces were covered with handkerchiefs, said that they were members of that labor federation. As they marched along Juan Pablo II Avenue, the demonstrators burned and damaged vehicles, threatening the drivers with machetes and iron rods.

The armed rioters set the first vehicle on fire in front of a playground park; however, the owner of the car extinguished the fire, preventing its total destruction.

Later during the march, FENASTRAS members broke the windshield of another vehicle and sprayed gasoline on a Jeep with licence plate number N-2946, then setting it on fire. Members of El Salvador Department's Fire Department managed to put out the fire before the vehicle was completely destroyed.

The march, which began at approximately 1500, proceeded down 10th Avenue South and continued along Juan Pablo II Avenue. Using megaphones, the demonstrators protested a bomb attack carried out against the federation's offices. They also incited violence and stopped city buses.

National policemen began patrolling the area of the demonstration in tanks and armored vehicles because of the destruction. The march ended in front of the FENASTRAS offices located on the east side of the Ex-Cuartel market. The rioters erected sandbag barricades and took over 10th Avenue South.

The demonstration was finally dispersed with tear gas. A police officer said that "terrorist actions like these make it necessary for security forces to use every means available to prevent the destruction of personal property."

Reportage on FMLN Military Activities

Minister's House Hit

PA2802205289 San Salvador Cadena Sonora in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Feb 89

[Text] Urban units of the FMLN this afternoon claimed responsibility for the dynamite attack on the residence of Education Minister Carlos Cruz Avalo. An unidentified spokesman said over the telephone to this station that the Che Guevara units of the FMLN staged this morning's attack on the education minister's residence.

The attack occurred at approximately 0650 at the education minister's house, which, according to initial reports, was seriously damaged. There were no reports of casualties. However, a Red Cross ambulance went to the house, so it is presumed someone might have been injured. Nevertheless, official sources have yet to issue a report on this attack on the education minister's house.

Attack on Usulutan, 6th Infantry

PA2802140289 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Live report by Amilcar Alcantara in Usulutan, Usulutan Department]

[Text] FMLN guerrillas last night attacked the city of Usulutan. The harassment attack, which included mortar and rifle fire, lasted more than 5 hours. The attack was apparently directed at the local prison, but this has yet to be officially confirmed. The harassment attack was also aimed at the garrisons of the 6th Infantry Brigade and the Atonal Battalion, located in the southern part of this city. However, we have heard that the attack was mainly directed at the local prison in an effort to release prisoners. This has yet to be confirmed, but the attack in fact focused on that sector of the city. We will try to gather all the information on this attack, which took place last night and early this morning.

We repeat that the harassment attack, which included mortar and rifle fire, was quite intense. The initial gunfire was heard at 2115. The residents of the area have gone through moments of great fear since the shooting did not end until 0430. As we said earlier, the attack was directed at the local prison, as the guerrillas sought to release the prisoners. We will try to obtain further information on this.

[Oscar Ramirez, reporter in station] Have you confirmed if there was any damage or casualties?

[Alcantara] Not yet, because I have not gone out into the streets. I live about four blocks from the brigade headquarters and about five blocks from the prison. Most of the gunfire was directed at that sector because the FMLN apparently wanted to release prisoners. We have not yet confirmed damage or casualties.

[Ramirez] Did the Air Force support the ground forces?

[Alcantara] We heard an Air Force helicopter at approximately 0100. It strafed the FMLN guerrillas while they in turn fired at the helicopter. I repeat, we have yet to confirm whether there were Army or guerrilla casualties.

[Ramirez] Are the townspeople moving about now and going to work?

[Alcantara] Yes, the people are now moving about. There was great fear last night because this attack lasted for quite a long time. Previous attacks had only lasted 60 or 90 minutes, but this one lasted from 2115 to 0430. We civilians did not sleep last night because of the heavy rifle and mortar fire.

Nueva Concepcion Battle Cited

PA0103003489 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish 2310 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Bulletin No 2 from the Modesto Ramirez Central Front, Chalatenango sector—date not given]

[Text] At 2330 on 27 February, our units attacked the Treasury Police barracks in Nueva Concepcion with people's artillery, grenade launchers, and rifle fire.

We wiped out three of the barracks and ousted the troops from four others. Our people's artillery hit three of the enemy's barracks, completely destroying them.

Another Modesto Ramirez unit attacked 4th Infantry Brigade units stationed in the Nueva Concepcion municipal building and in the city park. By 0430 we had defeated the enemy in the municipal building, at the park, and at the barracks. We killed 30 of the enemy and wounded 10 during these actions. The 30 dead were at the unit's headquarters, and the other 10 casualties were at the barracks.

At (?0230), the enemy received air support from an A-37 Dragonfly attack jet, a [word indistinct] helicopter, a C-47 gunship, an O-2 Cessna reconnaissance plane, and two helicopter gunships. The latter fired rockets and machinegunned the center of the town. Our antiaircraft units opened fire against the aircraft. We have confirmed reports that our units damaged one aircraft [word indistinct] also known as [word indistinct]. The damaged aircraft beat a hasty retreat from the combat zone.

20-21 Feb Battle Reports

PA2502123289

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 22 February broadcasts approximately 15 minutes of battle reports on recent FMLN actions in the country.

The first report states that at 0100 on 21 February FMLN guerrilla units began the subregional operation "With the People and the Weapons, We Will Achieve Victory." The operation reportedly included: the occupation by FMLN units of the town of Apopa, where the rebels attacked the civilian defense forces, killing three and wounding five in the fighting; an attack on a National Guard post outside the Insinca factory, in which two guardsmen were wounded; and the destruction of the Apopa municipal offices and three Insinca factory vehicles. In addition, the station reports that the ANTEL (National Administration for Telecommunications) offices and the Apopa gas station were destroyed in the fighting.

A second report adds that "as part of this subregional maneuver, our guerrilla and militia units sabotaged 4 115,000-volt power towers on the Cerron Grande-Nejapa line; 10 115,000-volt power towers on the Guajoyo-Nejapa line; 6 power poles on the road from Apopa to Quezaltepeque; and 7 power poles on the road from Nejapa to Mariona. All these actions were carried out between 0200 and 0330, and during this period not one of the garrisons sent reinforcements to the troops that were under attack."

The announcer says that the station has received preliminary reports indicating that an Army major and several soldiers were killed in the FMLN attack on Zacatecoluca, where the Denisa installations were attacked on 21 February.

The radio adds: "The Francisco Sanchez Northeastern Joint Command reports that Duartist Army troops from Military Detachment No 3 and a company from Morazan Battalion, which began a military operation in Morazan Department north of the Torola River, were attacked by our units. The troops were hiding in the Tortolico-Guaruma area, Torola Jurisdiction, Morazan Department. The attack began at 1800 on Monday, 20 February, and lasted until 0300 on 21 February. The Military Detachment No 3 commando unit was annihilated, and the total number of confirmed casualties is 23, including the officer in charge of Military Detachment No 3 and two soldiers. Our units seized two machineguns, two M-16 rifles, and other war materiel. The Air Force provided support throughout the night with A-37 aircraft, helicopter gunships, and O-2 aircraft. At dawn today, our comrades opened fire with antiaircraft weapons, damaging one helicopter in the Tortolico-Guarumo area." The announcer then says that he "regrets to report the heroic death in combat of one of our comrades" during this encounter.

A fourth report lists actions taking place within the framework of the FMLN subregional operation "In View of Government Intransigence and the Army's High Command, People Are Preparing the Insurrection," which included maneuvers in the Cabanas and Cuscatlan Departments, including an FMLN "attack on and occupation of Tenancingo Municipality, Cuscatlan Department, over a 4-hour period." The announcer says: "Our units also attacked, occupied, held a meeting, and distributed propaganda in Jutiapa, Cabanas Deparment, and erected a barricade on the road from Jutiapa to Cerron Grande, which our troops held for several hours. Simultaneously, clandestine militias erected barricades on the road to Tejutepeque and sabotaged the electricity and telephone systems along the same stretch of road."

The report continues: "At 0100 on 21 February, our units attacked the Tejutepeque National Guard post in (Cerro La Cruz) using people's artillery pieces, RPG-7 rocket launchers, grenades, and rifle fire, inflicting seven casualties on the Tejutepeque National Guard. Our units also attacked and routed civilian defense forces in San Jose Oratorio, Cabanas Department, using the people's artillery, grenades, and rifle fire, inflicting five casualties. Simultaneously, our troops harassed Military Detachment No 1 units at the Cerron Grande Dam."

The announcer says in conclusion: "All these actions were accompanied by wide distribution of propaganda explaining the FMLN peace proposal to people and the tasks of the upcoming insurrection." He adds that "the March elections intensify the war. The working class with their actions, occupations, and strikes are saying no to the elections of repression."

3,000 March Against FMLN in Sensuntepeque

PA2402144689 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] A march against the FMLN was staged in Sensuntepeque this morning, but there were no incidents during the protest. The march, organized by the civic committee of Cabanas Department, began at the Central Park and went through the main streets of the city. Sensuntepeque sources reported that approximately 3,000 persons participated in the march, carrying posters and shouting slogans against FMLN violence. It was also reported that the organizers said they were willing to continue this type of activity in other parts of the country.

15 Guerrillas Killed in Clashes With Military

PA2402144489 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 24 Feb 89

[Text] Military sources have reported that 15 guerrillas were killed during the latest clashes in various parts of the country.

According to the sources, Ponce Battalion troops killed six FMLN guerrillas in Ciudad Barrios, San Miguel Department.

Meanwhile, seven rebels were killed when they fought with soldiers from the 4th Military Detachment in Corinto and Meanguera, Morazan Department. It was also reported that two rebels were killed during clashes in Tecapan, Usulutan Department.

The military sources also reported that urban guerrillas last night attacked an Air Force patrol near Soyopango, but there were no casualties.

Nicaragua

Ortega Briefs Arias, Perez on Talks; Pardon

PA2802161189 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega contacted his colleagues Carlos Andres Perez of Venezuela and Oscar Arias of Costa Rica and informed them of the steps Nicaragua is taking to comply with the Central American agreements signed in El Salvador on 14 February.

According to official government spokesmen, Ortega told the presidents that he has been holding bilateral meetings for several days with opposition political parties based on the agreements reached at the Costa del Sol seaside resort. The presidents of Venezuela and Costa Rica were also told that today the National Assembly will learn of the draft resolution to pardon more than 1,806 former National Guardsmen following the issuance of a legal opinion prepared by an internal legislative commission that attends to human rights matters.

Ortega's contact took place just prior to the departure of more than 20 opposition politicians, businessmen, and trade union members who traveled to San Jose to meet President Arias and who were then to proceed to Caracas to talk with Social Democratic President Carlos Andres Perez.

D'Escoto Interviewed on Contras, Democracy

PA2802181689 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1330 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto at the Copan Sula Hotel in San Pedro Sula, Honduras by unidentified reporters; date not given—recorded]

[Reporter, via telephone] Good morning, Mr D'Escoto.

[D'Escoto] Good morning.

[Reporter] It is a pleasure to have you here for Radio America listeners. It has been rumored in our country and in some sectors of the continent that Nicaragua will not comply with the accords to democratize Nicaragua reached at the latest Central American presidential summit. What do you have to say?

[D'Escoto] It is evident there have always been and still are people and governments interested in portraying Nicaragua as a noncomplying country. The opposite is true, however. Those who attack us are responsible for crimes that the International Court of Justice has condemned. Anyway, you Honduran people, who are neighbors of Nicaragua, are familiar with Nicaragua's position regarding its international commitments. Nicaragua deserves and has earned the right to be trusted, because Nicaragua has complied with the accords. Nicaragua will continue to comply regardless of what others might do and will continue to be the country that complies the most; because, to some extent, we might say Nicaragua is

the freest country. Its internal unity is complete. The decisions made by our president at these international meetings have gone unchallenged.

[Reporter] Mr Minister, what do you think about the remarks by Honduran Army Commander General Humberto Regalado Hernandez, who said Nicaragua will not comply with the commitments?

[D'Escoto] I do not see how he can anticipate what Nicaragua will or will not do. I do not know what kind of crystal ball he has. Anyway, it would be interesting to see if he is willing to speak a little about Honduras instead of Nicaragua. I can speak about Nicaragua. I can say Nicaragua has always complied and will continue to comply with the accords. I wonder what Gen Regalado can tell us about Honduras' compliance with the accords. I hope he can say Honduras will comply. I would not doubt Honduras' good faith. I hope the Honduran Government will also consider Nicaragua's good faith and give us the benefit of the doubt because, as I have said, Nicaragua has always complied and has earned the right to have its word be taken seriously.

[Reporter] We have just been told our reporters are already with you at your hotel room. We will ask you a final question from Tegucigalpa so you can talk with our reporters. In light of the pullout of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the pullout of Cuban troops from Angola, does this commitment by your country mean Nicaragua is following the Soviet Union's perestroyka?

[D'Escoto] This sounds a little out of place. I do not see what the Nicaraguan commitment has to do with perestroyka or whatever. Nicaragua continues to lead in the struggle for peace, independence, and national sovereignty within the Central American and Latin American context. If you consider the measures Nicaragua has announced, you will see they are no different from what Nicaragua has always declared its purpose to be and from what the country has been doing. With decreased internal tension as the result of the contras' defeat, there is now a better opportunity to forge ahead and consolidate our revolutionary democratization, joint economic, pluralist, nonaligned project. We will now be able to improve this, which is why we envision acceleration toward the basic goals of the Nicaraguan revolutionary progress.

[Reporter] What do you think about Fidel Castro's recent remarks in Venezuela, where he said it is not worthwhile sacrificing the Nicaraguan revolution to democratize Central America?

[D'Escoto] This is the first time I have heard such a thing. I am not sure if he said it or what he means. Maybe you are quoting it out of context?

[Reporter] No, the Cuban commander said what I have just mentioned.

[D'Escoto] Does that mean it is not worthwhile sacrificing...?

[Reporter, interrupting] The Nicaraguan revolution.

[D'Escoto] And?

[Reporter] And participate in negotiations to pacify Central America.

[D'Escoto] To what?

[Reporter] Dr Castro said it is not worthwhile sacrificing the Nicaraguan revolution to...

[D'Escoto, interrupting] According to what I understand from what you are telling me, the premise seems to be that the Nicaraguan revolution is a factor of disturbance. The opposite is true, however. One of the most significant steps ahead in Central America is that civilian governments have emerged in countries north of Nicaragua, where there have been military dictatorships for a long time. This is an exclusive result of a revolution having taken place in Nicaragua. We hope that because the Nicaraguan revolution has continued to be consolidated, the people's power continues to be consolidated in these countries north of Nicaragua through their elected civilian representatives. The area has benefited the most because the Nicaraguan people, after a heroic struggle against the government imposed by U.S. imperialism, succeeded in achieving independence.

A factor of disturbance, on the other hand, has been the U.S. waging an undeclared—yet no less real—and criminal war against Nicaragua with the complicity of some area countries that have lent their territories for such aggression. This has introduced tension and threatened international peace in the region over these years. In Esquipulas, the Central American presidents expressed their determination not to continue allowing this situation and to place our peoples' interests above everything else. Our peoples in all fairness demand development, peace, democratization, and absolute respect for civilized coexistence standards embodied in international law, the United Nations Charter, etc.

[Reporter] We understand your viewpoint, Mr D'Escoto. Nicaragua has asserted that it will comply with the accords signed in El Salvador. The Cuban president, however, has said it is not worthwhile sacrificing the Nicaraguan revolution.

[D'Escoto] Nicaragua does not have to sacrifice anything to comply with its own objectives, independently of whether a meeting is held or not. Nicaragua did not have to make any concessions at the Costa Del Sol meeting. In this meeting, Nicaragua announced the steps it will take now that domestic tension has decreased as the result of the contras' defeat. We announced the commitments made with our people. This is part of the revolution. The revolution took place so that for the first time in history

there could be genuine democracy in Nicaragua, which is now free of U.S. control. This is why we made the revolution; this is why I do not understand this sacrifice of the revolution.

[Reporter] That is what Castro said.

[D'Escoto] This is why it is not advisable to quote somebody else. Let you and I speak without mentioning any third parties who are not here and with whom we cannot clarify the meaning of his words. Let us not discuss a remark quoted out of context.

[Reporter] I understand, Mr Foreign Minister, but this is what the Cuban commander said.

[D'Escoto] With due respect, this is not proper. As I have said, Nicaragua does not have to sacrifice anything. Nicaragua is the most democratic Central American country. This country is being governed by those directly elected by the people, not by a meddlesome armed forces that threatens the government with coups. That does not exist in Nicaragua. That is the situation in other countries, however democratic President Reagan has said they are. They simply are not democratic, because one demonstrates democracy by the way one acts and in the way the people exert power. In Nicaragua the people hold power, unlike other Central American countries, where other people impose their will on civilian governments. That does not happen in Nicaragua.

[Reporter] What really counts is that you have confirmed for us that the Nicaraguan Government will comply with the accords. Please attend to my fellow reporters who are with you in your room. Come in, (Lan).

[Reporter] Thanks, Armando. Mr Foreign Minister, this is a key question that has been asked to a number of Central American politicians: Will President Ortega run again for president in the coming elections?

[D'Escoto] There is no doubt Ortega has been Nicaragua's most popular president. I would say the great majority of the Nicaraguan people favor Ortega's running for president as the FSLN candidate. The FSLN, however, has not yet made a decision on this; according to the man in the street, however, the people would be very pleased with such a proposal. However, the decision has not yet been made. Our Constitution, like those of the leading democratic countries in the world, enables the people to reelect the president, as happens in the United States, France, and other countries. No official decision, however, has yet been made.

[Reporter] We have read some press dispatches from Nicaragua saying that the opposition, particularly the contras, oppose Ortega's candidacy in the upcoming elections.

[D'Escoto] The contras, that army of mercenaries in the U.S. Government's pay, have tried to impose the U.S. Government's will by force, but they have been defeated. So they now want to participate in the elections. Let them go to Nicaragua. Let them run as candidates. Let us see how the people will react to the presence of those who have been financed by the CIA to massacre our people. We will see how these men are received by the people during their participation in pure elections supervised by international observers. Let them run. But the contras are not the people. Quite the opposite is true. Frankly and sincerely, the contras are the antipeople. The contras have been and are the people's murderers. It is the people who make the decisions in a democratic system. It is the Nicaraguan people who will decide who will be their president as the result of the elections to be held 25 February 1990.

[Reporter] Father D'Escoto, how does Nicaragua regard a movement by some Central American foreign ministers and presidents to separate the FSLN as a party from the FSLN as an army?

[D'Escoto] A slogan that originated from the United States is being repeated here to try to confuse some people. It has been said that because the Army is called Sandinist, the Army is a party. Historically, it was like that in Nicaragua. In the past century there were two parties: the Liberal and the Conservative Parties. There was no national army. There were armed groups, each one belonging to a party. These armed groups were used to keep their parties in power until, through U.S. intervention, the National Guard was created, a U.S. brainchild. This organization was used as a pretorian guard to keep Somoza in power. Now that independence has been achieved, Sandino's name embodies the Nicaraguan people's struggle for independence, national dignity, and sovereignty. Hence the name of our party. This is the name of the combatants who freed us from the Somozist yoke. This is why we use the name FSLN. We also use Sandino's name for the Army, but that does not mean the Army belongs to the FSLN. For instance, there could be a Democratic Party in some other country. This country's army could be called the Democratic People's Army or something like that. The same word is used, but this does not mean a person has to be a Sandinist to be an Army member or sympathizer or to comply with the Patriotic Military Service.

[Reporter] The person could be a member of any political faction within the Army?

[D'Escoto] Of course—I do not mean political factions, but citizens who belong to any party.

[Reporter] Fabio has another question.

[Reporter] Mr Foreign Minister, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Everett Ellis Briggs yesterday said everything is all right, except for one dirty face, Nicaragua. Mr Briggs thinks what is being discussed at the fifth ministers meeting could be positive except for this big but....

[D'Escoto] That is a problem in his own eyes because, as his fellow Americans would say, he is a sore loser. The U.S. Government wanted things to be different, and they have been certainly defeated. So this is a problem only as he sees it. The problem for our people, and I would say even for the Honduran people, is Mr Briggs himself. He does not belong in these latitudes. He is the interventionist who has been supporting and identifying himself with policies that our people have repudiated.

[Reporter] To what degree is it true that the Central American presidents finally succeeded in convincing Nicaragua, as the result of an economic blockade, to release a large number of political prisoners and reopen the closed media? Was this economic pressure and strangulation necessary?

[D'Escoto] Look, there is no doubt that U.S. imperialism has suffered one of the clearest defeats in the history of its struggle to overthrow the legitimate and constitutional Nicaraguan Government. That is clear. However, it is also clear that although the United States has not achieved that goal, it has caused great damage to our economy. Nicaragua is facing a grave economic situation as a result of the war imposed on us by the United States. In fact, one of the issues that will soon be discussed at the International Court of Justice [ICJ] is how much the United States must indemnify Nicaragua, because the ICJ already ruled that the United States must indemnify Nicaragua for the damage it has caused. Of course, this will not bring back to life people who have died as a result of this criminal policy.

Nicaragua has several options to face this unfortunate economic situation. One of those options could have been to establish a war economy in the strict sense of the word. However, we have chosen other options. We have implemented measures that seem to be in accordance with IMF guidelines; measures that are usually recommended by financial institutions like the IMF and which are accompanied by a large amount of economic aid, of big loans. However, Nicaragua is implementing those measures without receiving any aid. This is like performing major surgery on a seriously ill patient without anesthesia. That is what we are doing.

Nicaragua made those decisions before going to the latest summit. No one obliged us to make any commitment. What we have done is to announce—and this was stated in the presidential communique, in the Costa del Sol declaration—the decisions that Nicaragua has made. It was a commitment made with our people prior to the meeting, which was reiterated to the Central American presidents. We did that to help them, because if you analyze the document carefully, you will see that the other presidents made very few commitments.

[Reporter] Nicaragua made more commitments than the other countries?

[D'Escoto] That's obvious. The measures announced by Nicaragua were the main part of the declaration. We can implement those measures now because, as I said, the pressure of war has decreased with the contras' defeat.

[Reporter] You keep mentioning the Nicaraguan contras' defeat. The Honduran president and Armed Forces commander, however, consider the defeat of the Nicaraguan contras an imminent problem when the agreements reached in Costa del Sol are implemented and when it is determined whether the contras will stay or leave. If Honduras decides to send the contras to Nicaragua, will Nicaragua respect their constitutional and human rights?

[D'Escoto] Well, Nicaragua... [changes thought] The contras are a real problem. They are also a problem for Honduras. Honduras accepted them, because I do not think that they are here against Honduras' will. There are bases here; there is full and total complicity. Honduras has permitted the establishment of contra camps and military bases. This is an interesting situation, as much of Honduras' sovereignty and territory was given to mercenaries at the service of a foreign power with the intention of overthrowing the constitutional Nicaraguan Government. However, it is a problem for Honduras, a problem that I know the Honduran people disagree with, because they are demanding measures to end it.

Nicaragua has tried to help find a solution. It has made a proposal to the Honduran Government for the voluntary repatriation of those who wish to return to Nicaragua. We are willing to cooperate in this regard. We are also willing to cooperate with the Central American presidents in finding third countries to receive those who do not wish to return to Nicaragua. Nicaragua proposed a complete plan.

In Costa del Sol, however, the Central American presidents committed themselves to drafting a plan for the contras' voluntary repatriation. This plan would be drafted within 90 days after the Costa del Sol summit. Our plan also contained all the mechanisms for verification and international support to confirm that the human rights of those citizens are respected. That will not be difficult because, after all, thousands of contras have already been resettled through an amnesty offer that has been in effect for 4 years—a very broad amnesty that does not exclude any contras. Thousands have returned. In addition, you may recall that thousands have been released from jail. Those who have not returned to the camps here in Honduras are in Nicaragua, living normal lives.

In the next few hours, President Ortega will send to the Nicaraguan National Assembly a request.. [changes thought] a draft pardon bill, which will permit the release from jail of all former National Guardsmen who are still in prison. As you know, one of the first steps taken in Nicaragua after the revolution was to abolish the death sentence. There is no death sentence in Nicaragua. It was established that the maximum sentence be 30 years. As

stated in a report issued by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission, contrary to other Central American countries, Nicaragua has never carried out a policy of murdering those who are arrested. That is why they are still in jail, because they are alive and are not buried or missing, which is a serious problem in several other countries. We do not have to mention the countries, as everyone knows who they are.

The other day, for example, a nun came to my office and told me: Father, please help me, I would like my brother to come out of jail; he has been there for almost 10 years, and he must serve 30 years. However, she said, I must admit that he is alive because he is in jail; otherwise, he would have been killed, because the people in his neighborhood hated him. Furthermore, you know the treatment given to prisoners: They have weekend paroles, they are given 15 days of parole once a year, and they can have conjugal visits. We have also established an open farming system that has been widely praised abroad. Now, God willing, after a period of reflection, the majority of or all of the prisoners will be able to resume normal lives in Nicaragua. Those who wish to do so will be able to participate in political activities like any other citizen and may even run for office. [passage indistinct]

National Assembly President on Pardon Bill

PA2802214889 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The National Assembly has begun to discuss the government's proposal to pardon 1,932 former Somozist guards within the framework of the Central American pacification process. The pardon bill was sent to the Assembly's human rights and peace commission, which is to give its opinion on the bill in the following days. All persons who will benefit from the bill are to be released during March, but 65 of those persons already enjoy family visiting rights, 49 are out on bail, and 130 are under house arrest.

Assembly President Commander Carlos Nunez noted that the murderers of Commanders Carlos Fonseca, Jose Benitez Escobar, (Pedro Arauz), and of hundreds of heros and martyrs are among those who will benefit from the pardon:

[Begin recording, in progress] ...in categories. The ones who executed superiors' orders—the corporals, sergeants, privates, etc—are different from the ones who were the intellectual authors and [word indistinct] of crimes and massacres against the people. The latter group includes those who organized and directed the crimes, and several of them are mentioned in the judgement [word indistinct] issued by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission. [Words indistinct] we will have to decide whether we approve the proposed pardon or if we make this differentiation. In addition to what I have noted, (Dr Guillermo Domingo Franchet)—just to give an example, he provides the complete list of prisoners, published today in EL NUEVO DIARIO newspaper—mentions (?criminals) that are in the same category of those who murdered Carlos Fonseca and (Pedro Arauz) and those who organized without [word indistinct] murders and violations of peasants [word indistinct]. Also included are those who participated in the murders of [words indistinct], just to mention a few cases. [end recording]

RN's Montalvan on Contras; Ortega Candidacy

PA2802195689 Tegucigalpa Radio America in Spanish 1706 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Interview with Nicaraguan Resistance Leader Wilfredo Montalvan by Miriam Mercado at San Pedro Sula, Honduras on 28 February—recorded]

[Text] [Mercado] A Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] delegation is in San Pedro Sula within the framework of the summit attended by foreign ministers from the EEC, the Contadora Group, and Central America. Mr Montalvan, are you in San Pedro Sula to talk to the Sandinists?

[Montalvan] No. We are here to outline the RN's position. We have explained the disastrous economic situation Nicaragua is in as a result of the Sandinist regime's totalitarian policies. We have asked that any future economic aid to the Nicaraguan Government be conditioned to observance of the Esquipulas II peace plan, the Alajuela declaration, and the San Salvador declaration. Otherwise, the EEC would be strengthening a totalitarian regime that violates human rights and denies fundamental liberties to our people.

[Mercado] The Sandinists are promising repatriation and other agreements, such as the release of political prisoners. What do you think of this attitude by the Sandinist regime?

[Montalvan] When you refer to the release of these political prisoners, it is because there is a report issued by the Inter-American Human Rights Commission that says out of the 1,945 former National Guardsmen in Sandinist jails, at least 1,700 should have been freed. Thus, Ortega is not granting any important concession in connection with the Esquipulas II peace plan, because he agreed to a total and unrestrictive amnesty and he has not yet kept many of these promises.

[Mercado] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto already announced this morning here in San Pedro Sula that Ortega will be the Sandinist presidential candidate. Would the Nicaraguan opposition candidate be Mrs Violeta Chamorro?

[Montalvan] No, the domestic civic opposition has still not chosen its candidate. I do want to stress that the Sandinists have always said they do not want to return to the past, and this is precisely what is happening in Nicaragua. The Somoza's always reelected themselves,

going as far as forming a dynasty. Luis Somoza was the president and Anastasio Somoza was the National Guard director and chief. Now, Daniel Ortega is president and Humberto Ortega is the minister of defense—a sort of National Guard director. So now we are faced with pseudo-Somozism without Somoza.

[Mercado] It was agreed at the San Salvador presidential summit that the 12,000 anti-Sandinists should leave Honduras. Do you agree?

[Montalvan] No; we are willing to lay down our weapons—we have repeatedly said this—provided there is a democratic system in Nicaragua. The reason that thousands of these fighters are in the Nicaraguan mountains still exists. While a Marxist-Leninist regime exists in Nicaragua, there will be Nicaraguan patriots willing to continue this struggle until democracy and liberty are attained for the Nicaraguan people.

[Mercado] Nevertheless, it is recommended that you be disarmed in Honduras.

[Montalvan] According to the joint declaration of the Central American presidents, a joint plan should be drawn up, with the five Central American presidents participating. This plan has still not been drafted, and we shall be waiting, because we shall have something to say when the time comes to draft this plan. Then we shall decide on the best course of action at that moment.

[Mercado] How long do you think the contras shall exist?

[Montalvan] As long as there is a dictatorship in Nicaragua, there will be contras.

[Mercado] It is known here in San Pedro Sula that you are to travel to Venezuela with a RN delegation. What is the purpose of going to Venezuela?

[Montalvan] President Carlos Andres Perez had participated to a great extent in the struggle we Nicaraguans undertook against the Somozist dictatorship. We believe he is a democrat, a Latin American leader with an international image, and that undoubtedly the influence he can exert at this moment will be aimed at restoring democracy in Nicaragua. We will talk to him and tell him our points of view, and we have great faith that any work he does will be aimed at achieving the RN's goal: to attain peace with freedom and democracy for Nicaragua.

Ortega, Opposition To Continue Talks Next Week

PA2802214989 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1930 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The political consultations between the government and the Nicaraguan civic opposition were suspended at the request of three parties whose leaders left for Costa Rica and Venezuela in the last few days. The request to temporarily suspend the talks was made to President Daniel Ortega by the presidents of the three parties that belong to the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board.

The Nicaraguan president hopes to complete a round of talks with more than 10 opposition parties to learn of their demands in connection with the beginning of the election process next February, as provided in the agreement of the Central American presidents based on a Nicaraguan proposal. The talks will continue next week after the return to the country of the leaders of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party, the Social Democratic Party, and the Social Christian Party faction led by Agustin Jarquin.

Panama

Reportage on OAS Human Rights Commission Visit

Government Communique Issued

PA2702131189 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 26 Feb 89 p 1

[Communique issued by the Foreign Ministry on a visit to Panama by an OAS Human Rights Commission delegation; date and place not given]

[Text] The Panamanian Foreign Ministry informs all Panamanian citizens that on 10 October 1988 the Panamanian Government sent an invitation to Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, president of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission, to visit Panama from 27 February to 3 March 1989 on the occasion of the celebration of the "40th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Panama has ratified most international and regional instruments to protect human rights and has included the main human rights regulations recognized by the world within its own legal code.

The Panamanian Government guarantees that human rights are respected in Panama and that citizens enjoy full individual and social rights.

Panama is ruled by a democratic regime and the election campaign that is under way and that will conclude on election day in May proves this.

The Inter-American Human Rights Commission will be given all the help it needs to observe what it considers appropriate during its visit to our country, in accordance with the norms that regulate this kind of visit.

Duque on Visit, U.S. Problems

PA2702143789 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 26 Feb 89 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] Before campaigning in La Chorrera and San Miguelito, Carlos Duque Jaen, presidential candidate of the eight-party National Liberation Coalition (COLINA), said he was very pleased that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights [CIDH] was visiting Panama.

Duque said: "They will find all kinds of facilities here, and they will be able to talk with all the leaders and activists on their list, which was prepared in Washington under pressure from some Panamanians working on behalf of U.S. interventionism."

Duque added: "However, their agenda is incomplete. The CIDH should meet with peasant groups, labor unions, leaders of mass organizations, and responsible technical people, who—because of their impartiality—are qualified to determine the extent and scope of the aggression that our nation has suffered since 1986.

"The following topics must not be overlooked:

1. The Right to Health. Reports from the Children's Hospital show that the malnutrition of our nation's future mothers affects their ability to bear children. In addition to premature births, the birth weight of babies is below normal. Loans and programs have been canceled just as funds were to be disbursed. Friendly nations were pressured to suspend financial aid for the construction of new hospitals, like the one planned for San Miguelito, to mention one case among many.

2. The Right to Nourishment. Due to the decline in agricultural production and the drop in the income of working class families, the average daily intake of calories has dropped by 40 percent.

3. The Right to Education. Academic performance has been affected by cuts in scholarships for poor students, school construction and expansion programs, and the amount of funds available to the University of Panama.

"Commission members should gain first-hand knowledge of this situation; otherwise, their presence in our country will be a mere exercise in propaganda against the constitutional government led by Manuel Solis Palma."

COLINA's national leader stressed: "Latin American opinion rejects the United States' role as marshal in protecting human rights, and questions the United States' shunning of the problem of overcrowding in U.S. prisons, where 70 percent of the inmates are black. Latin American opinion also accuses the United States of harassing Latin American immigrants who arrive in that country, forcing them to accept below minimum wage jobs and denying them social benefits, which is an insult to our racial brothers.

"While Panama—despite its limitations—maintains development and assistance programs for Embera, Kuna, Guaymi, and Choco Indians, Indians in the United States live virtually confined to reservations, far from the comforts and advantages of capitalism.

"We demand that the CIDH conduct an investigation in the United States so the commission can regain its prestige. Otherwise, it will continue to project the image of an instrument used to pressure OAS member countries."

Delegation Meetings Noted

PA2802210189 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] A special delegation of the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission is in Panama to investigate the human rights situation as a result of the country's economic and political crisis over the past 18 months. The delegation is led by Marco Tulio Bruni Celli, who, along with other members of the OAS delegation, is hearing versions of the Panamanian situation from government and opposition sectors and independent organizations.

This afternoon the delegation met with Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari, with whom they discussed the topic of the closed media, the U.S. blockade against Panama, and the current measures prohibiting public demonstrations.

This morning the delegation met with officials of the Attorney General's Office and the Foreign Ministry, with whom they exchanged opinions on the protection of human rights for all citizens.

At the last minute and without explaining the reason, Panamanians living abroad decided not to come to the country with the human rights delegation.

The delegation is now meeting with members of the Panamanian Human Rights Commission to analyze the current political and economic situation.

Solis Palma: 'Nothing To Hide'

PA2802225589 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1323 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] [No dateline as received]—Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma said that his government "has nothing to hide" from the OAS Inter-American Human Rights Commission, which began an investigation in this country on Monday that will end 3 March.

Solis Palma arrived in Panama last night from Japan, where he attended Emperor Hirohito's funeral. Solis Palma, who was greeted by ministers and members of the Panama Defense Forces General Staff, said he hopes

that the human rights commission "will issue a completely objective report instead of continuing the disinformation that has victimized us in the past few months," he stressed.

The OAS commission delegates met yesterday with top government officials, who guaranteed that the delegates will visit jails and talk with prisoners. The prisoners include the military officers who tried to oust General Manuel Antonio Noriega on 16 March 1988.

On the first day of its investigation in Panama the delegation met with government officials, including Education Minister Rolando Murgas, Attorney General Carlos Villalaz, and Government and Justice Minister Rodolfo Chiari.

Mario Tulio Bruni Celli, who heads the delegation, said that in his meeting with Villalaz they discussed the freedom of the press, including the closure 1 year ago of seven media accused of disrupting public order.

Citizen Killed Near U.S. Army Firing Range

PA0103010089 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Text] A Panamanian was killed and two others were seriously injured as the result of a powerful explosion in a nonmilitary area at the Nuevo Emperador firing range, in a new violation by the United States of civilian residents' right to cross the mountains of Burunga and Nuevo Emperador.

Despite efforts by the U.S. Army to prevent us from making this film, efforts that were even supported by members of the Panama Defense Forces [FDP] through the Combined Board, it was learned that a young man of approximately 23 years of age was killed when a military device exploded as he and two other people were picking up copper and aluminum items near U.S. Army Firing Range 810.

The body, which is as yet unidentified, had various punctures and injuries that resulted in instant death. The other two individuals have been admitted to Gorgas [U.S. Army] Hospital.

The FDP believes that the area in which the device exploded with such lamentable results is part of a military coordination area.

The death of this youth is one of several deaths that have occurred in the past few months in areas close to U.S. military installations in violation of the provisions of the Torrijos-Carter treaties. There has been no compensation for the relatives.

(Geomada de Jun), a municipal official of Ancon District, and FDP personnel proceeded to examine the body, initiate the appropriate investigations, and open a file on the accident, which once again brings mourning to a poor Panamanian family.

This case should be brought to the attention of the Human Rights Commission that is here in Panama; as a result of negligence, irresponsibility, and a lack of professionalism on the part of the U.S. Army, the lives of Panamanians living near the military bases appear to have no value.

Tribunal Denies Voters List Irregularities

PA2602040289 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Interview with Electoral Tribunal General Secretary Carlos Bonilla by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Bonilla] I would say that there are no irregularities in the voters list. As for the election process, we are doing what we have to do. We are completing all phases of that process. We are now reviewing all the candidacies and ordering the printing of those lists that are approved. I do not know of any irregularity committed by the Electoral Tribunal [TEP].

For example, they [not further identified] have said that names are being altered in the voters list. That is completely false. I said that yesterday. At our meeting with Ricardo Arias Calderon [Christian Democratic Party vice presidential candidate] yesterday, we clearly told him that that was false.

[Reporter] If that is the case, then why has the TEP admitted to the charges presented by the opposition parties?

[Bonilla] No, they have not presented accusations. They simply mentioned those irregularities and we explained to them in detail that what they were saying was not true. What they presented in written form was a request to be granted airtime on Radio Nacional programs as established by Article Nos 134 and 166 of the Electoral Code.

We told them that they were absolutely right. We told them that we will issue a decree so that all political parties can participate in Radio Nacional programs, which is the only state-owned radio station. That was presented in written form. I can show you the document. The opposition parties, however, did not present any accusation in written form. They only made some statements, and we told them that what they were saying was incorrect.

[Reporter] Who has the authority to approve the use of Radio Nacional time by the opposition parties?

[Bonilla] The TEP has the authority to do that, and we are already drafting the relevant decree. We contacted Radio Nacional administrators to find out about their programs and to then schedule the various radio programs, as was done during the 1984 election campaign.

Colombia

FARC Decrees Cease-Fire Effective 28 February

PA2802204589 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1923 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Bogota, 28 Feb (EFE)—The FARC, which is Colombia's oldest guerrilla group, will suspend its armed struggle today at 2300 GMT "unilaterally and indefinitely."

FARC Commander Jacobo Arenas today announced over a clandestine radio station that "all fronts" of the rebel group—approximately 40—"will unilaterally begin a cease-fire at 1800 (2300 GMT) on 28 February 1989."

The rebel leader said that his fighters will only "make use of their legitimate right to defend themselves" if they are attacked.

Arenas, who has taken refuge in La Uribe Mountains, Colombia's central mountain range, stressed that the cease-fire is "unilateral and indefinite" and "in response" to the establishment of a commission of prominent figures to promote "understanding" with the government.

On Thursday, the FARC high command asked for the appointment of a commission of five prominent Colombians "to promote" a "peace" initiative and promised to end hostilities if it was created.

The commission, which was installed on 27 February with the participation of former Presidents Misael Pastrana Borrero, conservative, and Alfonso Lopez Michelsen, liberal, does not interfere with the peace process promoted by Colombian President Virgilio Barco but "complements" it, Government Minister Raul Orejuela said today.

The Barco administration, which has been negotiating with the M-19 guerrilla movement since January, has insisted that the dialogue is open to all those who demonstrate a desire for peace.

The Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board, which includes six guerrilla organizations operating in Colombia, is preparing for its fourth summit since its creation in 1986 with the request that the government also "guarantee" the lives of those wishing to return to legal life.

In addition to the pro-Soviet FARC and the nationalist left-wing M-19, the pro-Castro ELN [Army of National Liberation], the pro-Chinese People's Liberation Front, the pro-Indian Quintin Lame Front, and the Trotskyite Free Fatherland group form part of the guerrilla coordinating board.

FARC Leader Committed to Plan

PA0103010189 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0008 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Telephone interview with FARC leader Jacobo Arenas, at an undisclosed location, by Diana Sofia Giraldo in Bogota—recorded]

[Text] [Giraldo] Does the FARC decision mean you are truly committed to peace? Does this mean you accept President Virgilio Barco's plans? If not, what is next?

[Arenas] We have made a proposal. We backed Senator Alvaro Leyva's peace proposal from the moment it was announced.

[Giraldo] Can we say the end of hostilities will start in the future or immediately? Will kidnapped persons be released? Will extortion end? Will the seizure of towns end?

[Arenas] Of course. When we say a unilateral cease-fire, we are talking about doing precisely that.

[Giraldo] You, who are older, may want peace and may return to civilian life. However, will the young people want to continue the armed struggle?

[Arenas] If indiscriminate massacres continue as part of that selective warfare now called a low-intensity conflict, and if the deterioration of the situation continues, the young people you are talking about may one day break with us. We will try to prevent that by all means.

[Giraldo] Considering that the FARC is planting and exporting coca leaves, that the Simon Bolivar Guerrilla Coordinating Board brought in weapons, and the possibility that extortion and kidnappings continue, what guarantees are you giving all of us Colombians who want to believe in something and yet cannot because of the things that are happening?

[Arenas] We can prove those things are not part of our policy. We can prove it now. We can prove it by ending the FARC's 25-year-old history.

Paraguay

Troop Movements, 'Armed Group' Entry Reported

PY2702130989 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Asuncion, Paraguay—Last night and early this morning, heavily armed Army personnel were checking the documents of people and vehicles on the outskirts of Asuncion. According to a high-ranking military source this was a routine operation.

The military deployment, however, coincided with unconfirmed rumors that an armed group connected with Alfredo Stroessner's regime, which was ousted in a bloody coup on 3 February, may have entered the country.

The country has been calm since Stroessner was ousted, forced to resign, and exiled in Brazil by provisional President General Andres Rodriguez.

The period given by the Interior Ministry for people to return weapons, uniforms, and ammunition that were apparently stolen during the coup while troops commanded by Gen Rodriguez fought the troops loyal to Stroessner, ends on 28 February. The material must be returned to the Presidential Escort Regiment, to the 1st Army Corps, or to the Police Central Precinct.

National Accord Requests Election Date Extension

PY2702212289 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 25 Feb 89 p 10

[Text] Yesterday members of the National Accord [AN] submitted to the government, to the executive board of the Colorado Party, and to the Paraguayan Episcopal Conference a petition requesting that the date for elections be extended 4 months, that registration for elections should last at least 60 days, and that parties should be allowed to form coalitions. These are some of the requests made by the AN.

Four representatives of the AN—Domingo Laino, Enrique Sanchez, Raul Fernandez, and Adalberto Mongelos—went to the government palace yesterday and met with Regis Romero, chief of the military household. Laino, who heads the AN and is also the president of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party (PLRA), said that the meeting lasted 2 hours and that "general issues" were discussed.

At the government palace the AN representatives submitted a memo with concrete requests divided into six points that include institutional legal aspects, electoral registry matters, the organization of polling stations, procedures, postponement of the elections, and political dialogue.

Regarding the legal aspect, the AN requests recognition of the parties that make up the AN that have not yet been recognized. The AN also requests proportional representation in Congress, that parties be allowed to form coalitions, that the AN members be allowed to have representatives on the Central Electoral Council, that the lists be separated into three parts (president, senators, deputies), and that a public commitment calling for a constituent assembly be made.

Regarding Point 2, entitled "Electoral Registry," the AN requests a new registration period of at least 60 days, free access to the national civic registry and the electoral registry, and the use of computers for registering the national electorate.

Regarding the organization of the polling stations (Point 3 in the memorandum), the AN requests that "AN officials be allowed to be members of the stations."

Regarding "procedures," the AN requests the use of indelible ink (that will last at least 48 hours) to mark the hands of voters, the public counting of votes from each balloting table after the closure of the vote, that the officials of the balloting table have an authenticated copy of the vote count proceedings record, and that official authorization be granted for the presence of foreign observers in all electoral facilities.

Point 5 of the memorandum requests that "the date of the elections be extended 4 months."

The AN petition concludes by requesting "dialogue"—a "roundtable of political negotiations in accordance with the spirit expressed in the document for national dialogue."

Amendments To Electoral Law Announced

PY2802180589 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Feb 89 p 8

[Text] As previously reported, in view of the upcoming 1 May general elections, the State Council yesterday approved a decree-law modifying several articles of Law No 886 of the Electoral Statute. This measure will facilitate the participation of all political parties in the elections.

The Executive Branch decree-law, which complies with the National Constitution, replaces five articles of the Electoral Law and establishes an additional period for the people to register at the National Civic Registration office. This additional period begins on 2 March and ends on 31 March. For this one time, it has also been decided that voters will only require a registration certificate and their identity card.

The decree-law literally states:

"Article 1 - Replaces Articles 20 of Law No 886 as follows: The political parties must be national and permanent. In order to register at the Central Electoral Court (JEC), the parties will have to declare the number of members, and to submit a statute democratically approved in a meeting or members' assembly. The party doctrine and principles must be stated in this statute."

"Article 2 - Replaces Article 21 of Law No 886 as follows: The name and symbol of all political parties are their exlcusive property. The parties legally registered at the time of this decree-law promulgation may keep their names and symbols."

"Article 3 - Replaces Article 30 of Law No 886 as follows: Any request presented to the JEC by a registered party, or a party in process of being registered, must be met within 72 hours. If a party's registration is denied, the party can submit a substantiated request to the Supreme Court within 72 hours. The Supreme Court will rule on this within the following 10 days."

"Article 4 - The parties that have not already requested registration, or have not had their registration legalized, must do it from the day of this decree-law promulgation until 31 March," one of the amendment items states. The decree-law also derogated Law No 1301 on people's registration at the JEC, which was promulgated in 1987.

Interior Minister General Orlando Machuca Vargas has explained why General Rodriguez' administration has decided to adopt these measures: "All Paraguayans must participate in the consolidation of the democratic process. Therefore, all parties must take part in the elections. The only requirement for their participation is that they be organized and have democratic objectives and principles. To ensure the citizens' right to elect, and to be elected, a period for the people to register for the elections has been established," Gen Machuca Vargas said.

"Pressed for time, the Executive Branch seeks to ensure the participation of all citizens in the upcoming elections through these and other amendments," Vargas concluded.

Opposition To Use Official Radio Station

PY2802141289 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Feb 89 p 9

[Text] According to Radio Nacional del Paraguay sources, this station will grant broadcasting time to the various opposition parties.

A Radio Nacional del Paraguay source has reported that, within the framework of the democratic openness being adopted by the government at the various levels of national life, this government official radio station will grant broadcasting time to the different opposition parties. It has also been reported that the appropriate regulations are under study and will be announced in the next few days.

All political parties will thus have programs of 15-20 minutes in which to broadcast their activities, programs, doctrines, and opinions on the current national situation.

The measure will allegedly be implemented in March to enable the parties that will take part in the upcoming elections in May to inform the people of their activities.

When implemented this will be an unprecedented event in the history of Paraguayan radio broadcasting, although it is commonly done in other countries.

Attorney General, Military Court Head Appointed

PY2802132389 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 28 Feb 89 p 8

[Summary] The State Council yesterday appointed Diogenes Martinez, who is the Colorado Lawyers Council chairman, as the new attorney general. It also appointed Captain Andres Ramon Legal Basualdo as the Military Supreme Court president.

New Military Department Chiefs Named

PY0103003689 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 28 Feb 89 p 12

[Text] "We held a routine conversation on military matters," said General Eumelio Bernal, Armed Forces chief of staff, after meeting with President Andres Rodriguez.

Bernal emphasized that the conversation revolved around "the reorganization and adjustments we are going to carry out in the Armed Forces. That is all we talked about." He also explained that the adjustments "must be in accordance with what we want to do, but we cannot give any details yet."

General Andres Rodriguez, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has signed General Order No 7, appointing chiefs of departments:

Colonel DEM [Graduate of Staff School] De los Santos Martinez as the new chief of the II Staff Department, replacing Colonel Pedro Gomez de la Fuente; Colonel DEM Wenceslao Crescendo Gonzalez Rivarola as chief of the VI Staff Department, replacing Colonel Federico Campos; Colonel Teodoro Gabriaguez as chief of the IV Staff Department, replacing Colonel Eleuterio Servin Ramirez; Navy Captain DEM Antonio Celestino Caballero as chief of the IX Staff Department, replacing Navy Captain DEM Sergio Rolando Alcaraz; and Colonel DEM Luis Catalino Gonzalez as adjutant general of the Armed Forces chief of staff.

The commander in chief, through General Order No 12, has confirmed the following officers: Navy Captain DEM Pedro Rivas Jara as chief of the I Staff Department, Colonel DEM Carlos Egisto Maggi as chief of the III Department, Colonel DEM Guillermo Godoy Galeano as chief of the V Department, Colonel DEM Ramon Sosa Rodriguez as chief of the VII Department, Colonel DEM Crispulo Vega Morel as chief of the VIII Department, Colonel DEM Emilio Osvaldo Balbuena as director of Military Publications, Colonel Nidia Beatriz Aquino de Munoz as chief of the General Staff Dental Service, and Major Alfredo Barrios as chief of Medical Service of the Armed Forces Staff.

Peru

President Garcia Appoints Two More Ministers

PY0103005489 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0005 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Lima, 28 Feb (EFE)—Today Peruvian President Alan Garcia appointed two new ministers, to the Ministry of the Presidency and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

With these appointments, President Garcia has completed the reshuffling of his cabinet and ended a government crisis, with five changes and one replacement.

The two new ministers are: Interior Vice Minister Agustin Mantilla is the new minister of the presidency, replacing Armando Villanueva, who became the new interior minister while concurrently keeping his position as prime minister; and Luis Heysen Zegarra is the new transportation and communications minister, replacing Camilo Carrillo. [passage omitted]

Soldiers, Subversives Clash in Angaraes Province

PY2802123589 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The Political-Military Command of Ayacucho has reported that seven subversives and three soldiers were killed in a clash between an Army patrol and a Shining Path terrorist group.

It has been reported that the clash occurred in (Fuente Laramata), (Buscamarca) district, Angaraes Province.

Army Corporal Ernesto Inocente Liverio and soldiers Narciso Cusi Huaman and Luis Guerrero Huaman, as well as seven unidentified terrorists, were killed in the clash.

Venezuela

Riots Continue; Constitutional Rights Suspended

Security Services on Alert

PA2802171889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] State security organizations are on alert throughout the metropolitan area to maintain public order and prevent riots. This measure serves to offer more security to the people and to the property of citizens who are not involved in any activities.

The Jose de Sanmartin Libertador police regiment and Army units have deployed three tactical units in the metropolitan area between Alta Florida and Petare.

Policemen are guarding stores and commercial centers to prevent looting and other incidents such as those that occurred at dawn today and continued this morning.

The situation at the cemetery is already under complete control. It is expected that the entire metropolitan area will come under control today.

Vandalism leads nowhere and creates confusion. The people should be aware of this.

In southeast Caracas, the riots began early this morning. The riots particularly affected the areas of Atillo, La Trinidad, and Baruca. This footage by Henry Rodriguez and Hector Garcia speaks for itself: vandalism in Santa Cruz del Este neighborhood. Here, the residents' protest was abused by looters, whose plundering threatened the safety and calm of the people.

Police units arrived to impose order. As a result of confrontations, one person was wounded, and a young man died.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified metropolitan policeman] They are presumably protesting the price increases and bus fare hike resulting from the economic package, but some people have turned this into vandalism. They are taking advantage of the situation to take what is not theirs. They hold demonstrations in order to loot stores, businesses, etc. They are also attacking policemen, to immobilize them so they can succeed in what they are doing.

[Unidentified reporter] What would you tell the people?

[Policeman] To remain home until the situation in the metropolitan area returns to normal. [end recording]

All Schools Closed

PA2802172389 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1634 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Education Minister Gustavo Rossen has issued a communique in connection with the events of the last few hours. In the communique, the Education Ministry has suspended until further notice teaching and administrative work at the various public and private schools throughout the country—at preschool, basic, middle, and higher professional levels; institutes and university colleges; and special educational and adult schools. University councils are urged to adopt similar measures.

20 Killed, 200 Wounded

PA2802181789 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1653 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 28 Feb (REUTER)—A police spokesman said today that the preliminary toll of the violence and looting in this capital against the increase in fuel prices and bus fares is 20 dead and 200 wounded.

Early today President Carlos Andres Perez asked soldiers to restore order in view of the magnitude of the disturbances, which lasted all day yesterday and have been characterized as the worst in Venezuela in 30 years.

The spokesman told REUTER that over 1,000 people have been arrested, mostly for looting, and that the police are not responsible for the deaths, which he attributed in large part to armed looters.

Disturbances took place also in at least 16 cities in Venezuela's interior. Looting also occurred in many of these cities, and vehicles were burned, but the incidents did not reach the magnitude of those in Caracas.

Maracaibo, Maracay, Puerto La Cruz, Barcelona, Merida, and San Cristobal are some of the affected cities.

Most stores in this city of 4 million remained closed today, and sporadic disturbances continued throughout the morning.

Public transportation did not operate today, forcing thousands to walk the streets, which were littered with debris from the looting, bonfires, and barricades that had been put up by demonstrators.

Schools were closed today and the children sent home.

Police sources said that at least 11 Caracas districts were invaded by gangs of looters, who began their forays yesterday following the enactment of a 30-percent increase in bus fares, which had been preceded by a 90-percent increase in fuel prices on Sunday. Perez, who assumed office on 2 February, has established a Draconian austerity program to comply with IMF guidelines.

The official news agency VENPRES reported that Central Bank President Pedro Tinoco and Finance Minister Eglee Iturbe de Blanco were scheduled to sign this afternoon in Washington a letter of intent spelling out the new economic package.

The police source said that the wounded include 11 policemen and that Commander Rafael Mesa Esturis, who was the commander of the police station in the Caracas working class district 23 de Enero, was killed.

The incidents have been regarded as the worst in Caracas since the popular insurrection that toppled dictator Marcos Perez Jimenez in January 1958, which led to the advent and consolidation of democracy in Venezuela.

According to a columnist of EL NACIONAL newspaper, "the looting of stores was reminiscent of the satellite television broadcasts of some years ago on incidents in Brazil, Santo Domingo, and more recently in Peru." He noted: "It is our turn now, after the acceptance of the IMF recipe."

At least six automobiles and buses were burned in Caracas. One of them was burned only one and a half blocks from the presidential palace.

The safest districts did not escape the looting. A supermarket was ransacked before dawn in front of Government House, an area customarily patrolled by soldiers, witnesses said.

In a televised speech last night, Interior Minister Alejandro Izaguirre promised to restore order and said that, if left unchecked, the disturbances could result in anarchy.

"We state our firm resolve not to allow the attacks, looting, and burning of automobiles to continue," he said. "This violence is not included in the expression of a democratic society."

Political violence is not common in Venezuela, whose citizens enjoy one of the highest standards of living and the most stable democracy in South America. However, their purchasing power has dropped since 1986 following the fall in oil prices.

Death Toll Rises to 37

PA2802204389 Paris AFP in Spanish 1958 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] Caracas, 28 Feb (AFP)—Caracas reporters have said 12 bodies were brought to the Caracas Judicial Police morgue by a station wagon at 1700 GMT today. With these casualties, the unofficial death toll after 40 hours of disturbances in Venezuela has risen to 37.

The Caracas station Radio Rumbos said there could be "100 dead" throughout the country. The police, however, continue to refuse to give any casualty figures.

The disturbances began to protest public transportation fare increases. The police initially used moderate force to quell the disturbances, but when arson and looting escalated yesterday, the police began to use firearms against the rioters.

Although Army troops were deployed to key points while the police and the National Guard patrolled the streets, the disturbances continued in Caracas. The police could not cope with the calls for help, including those from residents whose homes were being assaulted.

The main streets of the semideserted capital, including the one leading to the international airport, have been cut off by the disturbances.

Salary Raises Announced

PA2802205089 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1943 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] A few minutes ago, the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela, the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Federation of Chambers of Industry agreed to provide full-time workers with a salary increase. The salary increase will amount to 2,000 bolivares per month, beginning with the minimum wage and the compensation bonus in effect on 20 February 1989. Part-time employees, those under temporary hire, and those falling into other employment categories will receive proportional increases.

Those employees hired collectively or by individual work contracts between 1 October 1988 until the date of issuance of the decree granting the above salary increase will receive the equivalent of a 50 percent increase. Any salary increase agreed to by employers or employees within 180 days of the decree's date of issuance will be equivalent to 50 percent, in accordance with what has been decided today. This salary increase does not apply to domestic hire, concierges, and rural workers.

Decree Suspends Guarantees

PA2802221489 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2144 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Decree No 49 issued by President Carlos Andres Perez on 28 February—read by unidentified government spokesman]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez, exercising the powers conferred upon him by Paragraph 6 of Article 190 of the Constitution, and in accordance with the provisions of Articles 241 and 242, in a Council of Ministers meeting,

Considering:

That in the past few hours, a number of incidents have occurred in Caracas and other cities causing serious disruptions of public order and resulting in unrest within the community;

That the social tension caused by the crisis the country is facing has promoted outbreaks of violence, acts of vandalism, and attacks on the security of Venezuelan individuals and families, with the resulting loss of lives and considerable property damage, thus worsening the country's economic situation;

That it is an unavoidable duty of the national government to ensure that citizens fully enjoy the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution and the law in conditions of peace and quiet;

That preservation of the legal state is an inalienable principle and an absolute obligation of the national government,

Decrees:

Article 1. The guarantees established in Paragraphs 1, 2, 6 and 10 of Article 60; and in Articles 62, 64, 66, 71, and 115 of the Constitution are suspended.

Article 2. The present decree will be submitted for the review of both houses of Congress in a joint session within 10 days of its publication.

Article 3. Ministers are charged with the execution of the present decree.

Issued in Caracas on 28 February 1989, the 178th year of independence, and 130th year of the Federation.

[Signed] Carlos Andres Perez.

The decree is signed by all cabinet ministers.

Freedom of Movement Restricted

PA2802224889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2147 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Resolution read by Defense Minister Italo del Valle Alliegro; date and place not given—live]

[Text] Good evening. In keeping with Article 1 of Decree No 49 of 28 February 1989 suspending guarantees for the freedom of movement throughout the entire national territory, which is specified in Article 64 of the Constitution, I resolve:

Article 1: That the movement of people and transit of vehicles in the entire national territory is banned during the following hours:

A. Between 2000 today and 0600 tomorrow, 1 March 1989 [and]

B. Between 1800 and 0600 beginning tomorrow and for as long as this resolution remains in effect.

Article 2: Exempt from the ban mentioned in the previous article are people holding the authorization issued by the appropriate authorities who because of their profession must carry out duties related to their profession.

Article 3: Violators of provisions contained in this resolution will be sanctioned according to the law.

Thank you very much and good evening.

Perez Addresses Nation

PA0103022889 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 2023 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Speech by President Carlos Andres Perez from the Ayacucho Room of the Miraflores Palace in Caracas—live]

[Text] Venezuelans, on 16 February of this year, and from this very podium in the Ayacucho Room of the Miraflores Palace, I addressed the nation to clearly and honestly portray—in accordance with the responsibility demanded by my position—the situation in the country exactly as it is with no attempt at dissimulation so that all Venezuelans would become aware of the true state of our economy. At the same time, I wished to announce the measures that would have to be taken to recover our hopes for development and for the well-being to which all Venezuelans are entitled.

At that time I announced economic measures and pointed out that we had to make sacrifices. I noted that the objective and goal of the measures announced by the government was to address the needs of the working class and of the peasant, labor, and middle-class sectors in the country. The measures also sought to restore stability to the national economy and aimed at creating the necessary conditions to allow our industrial and agricultural sectors to develop to such an extent that they could help

stabilize our economy and compensate for the problems created by the drop in oil prices. The measures also were aimed at providing a sounder basis for national economic development.

These objectives, along with a thorough explanation of the situation in the country, are evidence of the government's absolute loyalty to the best interests of the Venezuelan people. At that time we said that we no longer felt that we could compensate for our errors as we had done in the past when a thriving oil industry provided vast economic resources.

We said that now we are confronting a reality that allows no errors and that does not allow us to waste time with partial measures that can only try to hide what today is impossible to hide from Venezuelans. We said this without deceit. We did so not to make Venezuelans pessimistic but to show them our fatherland's extraordinary possibilities for development and for promoting the people's welfare due to Venezuela's vast physical resources and its remarkable human resources, which have both increased during the 30 years of democratic process. We admitted that the measures were difficult and harsh, especially during the initial phase during which we must reorganize our economy.

This reorganization is essential to obtain resources from the international economic system to allow us to remedy the depletion of our foreign reserves. We said that we could not continue to live outside reality. We could not continue to have unfair prices for our agricultural products. We could not continue to grant tax breaks and subsidies for the food and goods we import. In the past we had done this and recovered because of the wealth related to our oil production. But today the international oil market is not the bonanza it once was.

Therefore we implemented the measures that we had proposed to the country. We explained that these measures were not arbitrary or only one option out of many we could have selected. We had to find a way to delve into our own resources—managed without deceit and with full honesty—and continue the national economic recovery process. Our huge $30 billion foreign debt and the drop in oil prices prevented us from continuously postponing solutions that would provide a firm basis for all national sectors and for the promotion of the people's welfare.

We started to implement the measures, but first we increased the public employees' wages by 32 percent and we increased the workers' minimum wage from 2,500 to 4,000 bolivares. After that we announced that the Confederation of Workers of Venezuela [CTV] and the Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industry [Fedecamaras], in an example of extraordinary responsibility, made the commitment to agree on a salary increase for the private sector. This salary increase would go into effect on 1 March, the date the government had decreed that the increases would go into effect for public workers and employees. Today I am happy to announce to the country that CTV and Fedecamaras, honoring their basic commitments to Venezuela, have reached an agreement and that the private sector's workers and employees will have a substantial wage increase, one that is superior even to the one obtained by public sector workers and employees through government decree.

This means that we have been fulfilling with democratic loyalty our commitment: that the difficult measures we must adopt to safeguard Venezuela's future would be accompanied by compensatory measures by the public and private sectors to prevent the further dangerous deterioration of the Venezuelan workers' real salary.

At the same time, in accordance with what I said on 16 February, we began to raise the price of some of our products. This is a commitment we have to the country, not to the IMF.

Under the current circumstances, Venezuela cannot afford a loss in the sale of oil byproducts in Venezuela. That is what was happening. The country had been subsidizing the price of gasoline and fuel. We had been subsidizing it because our oil resources provided us with surplus funds from our exports. Today we do not have those funds, and oil for domestic consumption had to be subsidized by reducing our spending and social programs. It was not a matter of reducing the profit earned by Petroven; Petroven was losing money because gasoline and other oil byproducts were sold domestically at prices below production cost.

As if that were not enough, the steady increase of domestic gasoline and fuel consumption due to low prices was dangerously reducing the export quotas to which we are entitled in accordance with the agreements we signed with OPEC.

This is a healthy and necessary measure. It will initially cause some difficulties. We will not deny that. We wish we could avoid those difficulties, and we are sorry that is not possible. However, we have been and still are willing to compensate the transportation users in order not to affect their already delicate economic situation any further. The measures were adopted with that in mind.

In the same manner, we must adopt similar measures to establish prices in accordance with the real value of work and products in our country. We must set realistic prices in our economy, because this will create a solid foundation to face any international crisis that could affect the Venezuelan economy in the future.

We announced that other specific measures were being prepared to subsidize staple products. We announced that we were preparing other measures that will be immediately implemented to help the needy, the unemployed, and the less fortunate. We said that our government would always have a basic social orientation; that we will never accept any development plan emphasizing

only production, because we will ask ourselves every day: Produce for whom? Produce for what? We must produce for Venezuela and for the benefit of Venezuelans.

Venezuelans know me very well. Many years of daily ceaseless activity in national politics have surrounded me with the faith and confidence that have allowed me the honor to be the first Venezuelan to be reelected president. I will not betray that confidence. I will not change the course of my life, which has made it possible for me to win the affection of Venezuelans and their faith in my ability to work for Venezuela.

In this strenuous election campaign that we just experienced it was probably this factor—confidence and full knowledge of my past performance—that convinced a large majority of Venezuelans that I was definitely the Venezuelan with more experience, greater ability, and greater desire to act and to serve during this crisis that Venezuela is undergoing.

In keeping with the clear mandate given me by my people, the Venezuelan nation, I am carrying out—together with cabinet ministers and together with the party that brought me to power, the Democratic Action [AD] party—my duties in perhaps the most difficult moments ever experienced by our fatherland. We are definitely putting on the line the consolidation of our democratic process, because we have rid ourselves of all frivolities, false illusions, and self-deceit in managing our economy. In these 30 years of democracy, Venezuela has achieved great goals. We should not be pessimistic or have any regrets about this democratic process.

Today we have a Venezuela that is better prepared to face its destiny, to achieve its great destiny. Today Venezuela has human resources and experience that allows it to take full advantage of the great material resources of our country. However, to make this possible, we must do what we have begun to do with complete determination, complete faith, and with full assurance that we are not going to defraud the hopes and confidence that the Venezuelan people have placed in us.

This is what I came to tell all Venezuelans—those who voted for me and those who did not vote for me—that my purpose, determination, and desire are at the complete service of removing Venezuela from the state of crisis in which it is mired. To do so it is indispensable to correct now and forever the grave errors we have committed in the past. It has been said that President Perez, the resolute opponent of the IMF, has now embraced it and is going to lead Venezuela through the grave crises that have been experienced by Argentina, Mexico, or Brazil. This has been said, and it is not true. I say this here face-to-face with all my compatriots.

I have been and am now an opponent of the IMF because it represents the code of political conduct that the large industrialized countries have established to promote their own welfare, giving little thought to the rights of men and women of developing nations. The IMF, created after World War II by the victors, was made to essentially look after the interests of the great nations that usurped the right to be consumers and left us all the right to be producers.

Because of this situation, we have said that a thorough change is necessary in the international economic system. You Venezuelans have seen me travel across the world, have read in the press and heard and seen on radio and television my persistent pilgrimages to nations in efforts to combat this problem so fundamental to Venezuela and to all developing countries.

As soon as the Supreme Electoral Council made its decision to declare me president-elect of Venezuela, I traveled across the world. However, I was not resting or taking a pleasure cruise. I went on a tour that amazed many and seemed almost incredible to others. I spent only a few hours in each country. First I went to hold talks with my old friends, the rulers of the Arab countries, to try to find a way to stabilize oil prices, which is a matter of life and death to us in our efforts to overcome our economic problems. Fortunately we achieved something.

However, I also went to the industrialized nations to talk with the heads of government of West Germany, France, and Spain to get European support for our idea that international justice is necessary to solve this huge problem of the foreign debt. I went to the United States when President Bush was only president-elect, like myself, to frankly discuss problems and to brief him to give him a basic idea of the problems Venezuela and all of Latin America are experiencing in their search for a solution to free ourselves from this already unbearable and intolerable burden caused by the collection of the foreign debt.

The Venezuelan people had the honor to receive on the day of my inauguration the majority of the heads of state of Latin America as well as prominent figures from Europe, Asia, and Africa.

Also on that occasion, the Group of Eight, Latin America's biggest countries, held long discussions to continue making progress toward an agreement that will enable us to decisively face the foreign debt problem. This problem is crippling the possibilities for growth and development of all of our economies. Later, we went to the IMF, aware that it represents policies that are not the policies of a single European institution but the policies of all the developed countries. The IMF represents socialist Mitterrand, conservatives Thatcher and Bush, and socialist Felipe Gonzalez. The IMF is the system that rules all the financial transactions of our Western world. We are in it; we are part of it; we have Venezuelan resources—Venezuelan money—in the IMF. Without the IMF's approval, we cannot carry out any international transaction or get any loan we need to solve the problem of the

depletion of our international reserves. We will need the IMF's approval today, tomorrow, and until we change the unjust system of economic international relations that rules our world.

Therefore, going to the IMF is not an option. It is the only option for a country that has depleted its international reserves. Venezuelan politicians and other sectors once used to say that Venezuela was refinancing its foreign debt without going to the IMF. That was a half-truth, because at that time we had international reserves and had no need to go to the IMF to get loans. We did not have to reach an agreement with the IMF to be able to get loans from other international organizations.

Today, we have no reserves. Today, we need loans. Today, we need agreements with the IMF. Today, we need the IMF to give us, Venezuelans, what is ours from our quota as a member of that organization that rules the international economic relations of all our countries. But we did not go to beg. We did not go to get advice from the IMF. We went to the IMF after people who are truly capable of understanding our economy made long studies in Venezuela. We held talks in many forums and meetings with labor, business, economic, and intellectual groups. We went to the IMF to present Venezuela's proposal and willing to correct the mistakes we have been making all these years.

The talks were difficult. But finally we signed the letter of intent today. Tomorrow the Congress and all Venezuelans will learn the contents of the letter of intent, and they will see that there is absolutely nothing in it that could put Venezuelans to shame. There are no concessions harming our sovereignty; the letter of intent contains only steps we must take if we want to organize our economy. You will see this tomorrow. The letter of intent will be discussed. We will also be willing to explain everything you want explained, as you are entitled to. We thus pledge that we had to take this step to save Venezuela from the terrible circumstances we are experiencing.

The signing of the letter of intent will now open up credit for Venezuela. It will enable us to bring to the Venezuelan Central Bank dollars that will once again increase our international reserves and will let us take the measures that can no longer be delayed. If we can be accused of something, it is that we have not acted as fast as we could have, although we have been in office just 20 days. This is the current situation; however, the patience of all Venezuelans is wearing out. The opportunity to fully implement the rest of our economic measures is opening up, and all Venezuelans, all those who participate in the economic process, will know what to expect. This way, we will be able to face the solutions to the problems that initially are created by the measures we are now taking to reorganize the economy. Unfortunately but inevitably, these measures affect a large number of Venezuelans, mainly the middle class, workers, and peasants.

Venezuelans, you can be certain and time will tell that this is not a formula to perpetuate Venezuela's old economic models, to continue tolerating unemployment and the unlimited growth of the informal economy, which significantly affects all aspects of Venezuelan development. The measures we have adopted are difficult for all sectors, mean sacrifices for the wealthy and the needy, and also offer solutions that will open up new direction and new prospects for the Venezuelan economy. In order to attain this, we are now committed not only to opening up the possibilities of providing for the downtrodden, the unemployed, the underpriviledged, and the impoverished sectors, but also to offering the middle class the right to buy housing. Of course, the plans for low-income housing for the lower classes are also being implemented.

These programs we are now implementing will also make it possible to provide sound foundations for opening possibilities for the agricultural sector. Bringing interest rates down to a reasonable amount when compared to inflation rates was also an unavoidable commitment and will help prevent the flight of capital so that our wealth will not continue to pour into foreign banks.

Subsidies and policies to protect farmers will come. The Agricultural Development Bank, the Farm Loan Institute [Instituto de Credito Agropecuario], and the Agricultural Development Fund [Fondo de Desarrollo Agropecuario] will get more resources to enable us to avoid resorting exclusively to resources with high interest rates lent by commercial banks. At the same time, we have subsidized seven points of the interest rate that will be charged to credits for the agricultural sector. We have not forgotten any sector. We will allocate important resources to the small- and medium-size industries, and we will convert credits to handicrafts in a social program. We will provide free food to the most underprivileged sectors. We will care for children in the poorest sectors in the country. We are not going to forsake these indispensable and fundamental duties of a government that wants to take a step forward in the Venezuelan democratization and modernization process.

This is the commitment I am reaffirming before you today when Venezuela is immersed in an incredible tragedy. As a result of the increase in the price of gasoline, there have been mass lootings. I have not come here to accuse Venezuela's maladjusted, violent, and subversive sectors. Sad to say, we have sectors here that have committed themselves to violence. However, they are a very tiny minority, lacking the capability of deeply disturbing national peace. Nevertheless, they have been able to take advantage of the difficult circumstances Venezuela is experiencing. We cannot deny—because that would be hypocritical and I have decided to speak to the Venezuelan people with complete frankness—that broad sectors of Venezuelan society, the downtrodden and low-income sectors, are frustrated and filled with resentment and this provides an opportunity for public order disturbances.

The policies we have been implemented are to blame for this. The blame lies in the way we have managed our economy because we could only afford to take care of the needy when we had money for subsidies. Now that we cannot take care of these sectors because we lack the money, even though we have worked hard, we have had this explosion.

A few minutes ago, when I met with the political parties to explain the situation to them, the measures we are adopting, and the decree suspending rights to which I am referring, Deputy Rhona Ottolina spoke her mind with a tremendous civic spirit. She said: Those masses now in the streets did not get there today or yesterday. They were there waiting for the right moment to express themselves and to vent their unhappiness and disgust. That is right, ladies and gentlemen. That is right, Venezuelan men and women, Venezuelan businessmen, Venezuelan workers, Venezuelan intellectuals and scientists. All Venezuelans must believe that we must do away with that kind of Venezuela.

We must believe that only by acting openly and honestly can we develop an economy that prevents the buildup of strong and terrible social tensions in major sectors of our society. Today we must lament the several dozen people killed. This is a very grave situation. We must lament the more than two or three dozen people injured. Most of them were injured by the broken glass from the looted stores. Over 300 stores were looted.

To be sure, in a dictatorial regime, in a dictatorial regime [repeats himself] that cares little for human life there would not have been any looting because the state's rifles would have prevented it. However, that is not the way a democratic regime behaves. That is why the Constitution contains a series of emergency measures within a democratic system to end situations such as the one in our country today. That is why the decree suspending constitutional rights has been issued. It seeks, first of all, to protect the lives of all Venezuelans. Second, it seeks to protect peace, and third, to protect the country's heritage, which today has been diminished by the looting in Caracas, and, to a lesser degree, in other parts of the republic.

The suspension of constitutional rights will permit us to act without the limitations and obstacles of normal civil rights legislation. The suspension of guarantees will permit the Armed Forces, in accordance with military regulations, to regulate the curfew in such a way that the city's strife-torn streets will be clear for certain hours during which we Venezuelans rest and during which we need peace and quiet.

In this way, we will be able to again bring control and stability to the situation. That is the purpose of this decree, which was drafted this morning during a special meeting of the council of ministers.

However, I believe that we need to reflect on some more things. I have said that sacrifices are needed from all sectors. I have said that low-income sectors are the ones who are always hurt the most by this kind of situation in a country. I also said that if the wealthy sectors that own the resources are not willing to make the necessary sacrifices, if they are not willing to provide examples of austerity, we will lack credibility and those who are wealthy and those that are not will not reach an understanding and have good relations. Therefore, the Fedecamaras [Venezuelan Federation of Associations and Chambers of Commerce and Industries] decision to create a substantial salary increase is not a sacrifice, it is an investment. Fedecamaras is investing in tranquillity and credibility and is rendering homage to those in the Venezuelan work force and to those who are forsaken because they are unemployed.

Many other things that seem like sacrifices really are not. They are social investments that the wealthy sectors must make to help resolve this situation. The issue now is not that of making more profits or of earning more money. The issue now is that of giving a firm and sound foundation to national development, which will allow everyone according to his own strength, ability, or resources to achieve benefits for himself and for society. We must augment nominal salaries or money earned by the workers with what we could call a social salary, in other words, with other benefits such as services workers receive from the state through public services—which must be improved—and with educational, recreational, and health services which business owners, the wealthy sectors must provide.

We must admit that we all share responsibility in the situation our country is facing. We must also admit that unless we reflect and look back on the way we have behaved in Venezuelan society, we will not attain the benefits we want today, and the harsh measures we are implementing today will not help us achieve our goals. As president of all Venezuelans and with the clear mandate I have received from the people, I am committed to attaining our goals. I have said that there is only one way: through concerted efforts. One could ask why we are talking about concerted efforts when troops are in the streets, when there are confrontations with the grass roots, when sectors undoubtedly committed to violence are trying to encourage some Venezuelans to loot. How can we talk of concerted efforts under such circumstances?

I tell my compatriots that this is the time when we must adhere to our commitment to respond to the desires and efforts of all Venezuelans. We must now devote more time, more debates if necessary, to find the necessary conditions for the concerted effort demanded by the national economy. We must eliminate the mistrust that is sown by the belief that people exist who think of nothing but of getting rich.

We must tell the banking sector that it is impossible to increase the lending rate to 30 percent and to keep the interest rate on deposits at 8 or 10 percent. This is an offense to Venezuela. The rate of deposits must be linked to the lending rate. We must tell them that if the banking sector is going to get more money by virtue of the interest they earn on the money they lend, greater incentives must be given to those saving money in the bank—money that has been put in the bank precisely to improve the situation of some middle-class family or a needy family. We must tell them that interest rates are increased to create a balance that prevents or helps us prevent the flight of capital. We must tell them that each and every sector must do its share to fulfill the social commitment all of us in Venezuela must have if we honestly want to improve the people's well-being and to create clear guidelines to open long-range prospects for restoring faith in the government and the business and labor sector.

I believe that few countries or perhaps no other Latin American country can claim that they have a labor force as responsible and serious as Venezuela's. Moreover, few Latin American countries have the new image displayed by Venezuela's business sector, which has first-rate human resources, executives, and managers capable of managing everything to turn Venezuela into a developed country. Few countries can claim that within their labor force there is a clear and perfect understanding, which forms the essential and requisite basis for the achievement of our objectives.

Thus, fellow Venezuelan men and women, when we tell you that we were forced to assume this harsh responsibility of suspending guarantees in this country, we are also saying that we did so for your own sake. We wish to add that these measures, these harsh economic measures that we are implementing, are being adopted for your own sake. They will allow us to really improve the well-being of all segments of society. We will continue our efforts.

I told the workers during my election camapaign that I do not want to gain popularity by remaining silent or through a fear of adopting measures that could in any way decrease my popularity or the nation's trust in me. That is why I told them that I do not wish to have you carry me on your shoulders into the Miraflores [Presidential Palace]. My pride and ambition is for you to carry me on your shoulders away from it.

That is the idea that I wish to reiterate today. It might be that today certain confused groups are surprised by the decisions that I have made. I must do this; it is a commitment; I made a pledge to the Venezuelan people. I am certain of this, because this is the objective of our struggle; that is my historic ambition: When the time comes for me to turn over power, I want to hand over a healthy Venezuela; a growing Venezuela; a Venezuela in which Venezuelans will again greet me with their hands held high. [applause] Let us get on with it! Let us get on with it, Venezuelans! Let us move forward; the future is in our hands! [applause]

Caracas Calm Following Curfew

PA0103041689 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0344 GMT 1 Mar 89

[Excerpt] Caracas, 28 Feb (EFE)—With the enforcement of the curfew, calm returned tonight to Caracas. Soldiers and policemen are tightly patrolling the city following disturbances yesterday and today that claimed many lives.

Caracas' downtown and residential areas seemed empty at the start of the curfew at 2000 (0000 GMT), although it was unofficially reported that incidents are still taking place in the city's lower income neighborhoods.

Soldiers wearing fatigues and carrying rifles and other combat weapons were patrolling the streets and stopping the few drivers who were on Caracas' highways and avenues, which are normally congested at this time.

Reports from other Venezuelan cities such as Maracaibo and Valencia said streets have been deserted since early evening because of the curfew and because people were afraid of looting and arson.

In Caracas, the area around the Central University of Venezuela and Venezuela Square, the site of the most violent confrontations between demonstrators and the police, now is calm, although burned cars and tires and broken glass remain in the area. [Passage omitted]

Suriname

Bouterse Proposes South American Military Summit

FL2702123689 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Surinamese Army Commander Desi Bouterse has proposed convening a meeting of South American military chiefs to discuss the drug issue. He spoke to mark the 9th anniversary of the Surinamese revolution and said military matters should also be on the agenda of the meeting.

Mr Bouterse says Suriname should strengthen ties with countries in the region and not depend too heavily on economic aid from Holland. Negotiations are still underway on the Dutch aid to Suriname.

Thousands Participate in Revolution Day

FL2702185589 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Thousands of persons last Saturday took part in the activities to mark the 9th Anniversary of the Day of the Revolution at Independence Square. Surinamese flocked the square long before the start of the activities.

The activities of the day began with the color (?guard) parade followed by (?mass) games. This was followed by a speech by Commander Desi Bouterse. Three orchestras, including one from the French Antilles, supplied the entertainment until late in the night at Independence Square.

Surinamese from all walks of life in the different parts of the country took part in the activities. The activities also included a people's reception (?at) the Commander's Cabinet.

Bouterse Addresses Rally

FL2702184289 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Commander Desi Bouterse said in a speech on Saturday, 25 February, that the revolution has given its message to the people in the constitution. The commander addressed a large crowd which was attending at Independence Square to observe the 9th Anniversary of the Day of the Revolution.

Bouterse made an evaluation of the socio-economic and political situation of Suriname in the past 9 years. He is of the opinion that there is still a lot to be done. Bouterse declared that despite the errors which have been made, the revolution has realized many things. Bouterse alleged that the people were impatient and had no faith in the revolution. He pointed out that now the country has reached a crisis situation.

According to Bouterse it was wrong to abandon the national policy. He said: It is time for Suriname to define its position regarding its foreign relations. The commander stated that our country should pay less attention to Holland and therefore welcome the initiative of the government to strengthen relations with other countries in the region. At the end of his address, he emphasized his faith in the country, the people, and the constitution.

DC-3 Plane Reportedly Carrying Arms to Rebels

Adviser Denies Shipment

FL2302153289 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1130 GMT 23 Feb 89

[Text] A political adviser to Surinamese rebel leader Ronnie Brunswijk denies media reports that his guerrillas have received an arms shipment through Barbados. Rebel adviser (Dennis DeHart) has been in Paramaribo for talks with military commander Desi Bouterse and President Ramsewak Shankar.

Brunswijk Denies Attack Plans

FL2702195389 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] The DC-3 aircraft which disappeared for 1 day, 2 weeks ago, was, according to terrorist leader Brunswijk, making an emergency landing on Stoelmans Eiland. This was told to the daily DE WARE TIDJ by the terrorist leader last week Friday. However, Brunswijk has denied that the aircraft delivered a shipment of weapons and ammunitions. According to the terrorist leader, the DC-3 had a shipment of vegetables on board. The aircraft, which originated from Trinidad, left for French Guiana after having stayed for 24 hours on Stoelmans Eiland.

Brunswijk has denied reports that he is preparing to launch an attack within a short time. He says that he is waiting for the developments within the peace process. A week ago, officials of the Committee of Christian Churches paid a visit to Brunswijk.

Conflict in DC-3 Records

FL2802194589 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 28 Feb 89

[Text] The daily DE WARE TIDJ has today reported that the cargo sheet of the vanished DC-3 aircraft does not match with the statement made by the crew of the aircraft. This was made known in a report which the French authorities had sent to the Surinamese Air Traffic Department. According to statements of the crew, the aircraft carried a cargo of vegetables which was thrown out over Suriname. The DE WARE TIDJ announced what was written on the cargo sheet of the aircraft.

Two weeks ago the French air traffic authorities reported that the DC-3 aircraft was missing. Later it became clear that the aircraft had made an emergency landing on Stoelmans Eiland in east Suriname. (?Reports) said that the aircraft had delivered weapons to the terrorist gang of Ronnie Brunswijk. These allegations were, however, denied by Brunswijk. The Air Traffic Department of Suriname, right up to news time, is not available for comment.

Guyana's Jackson Arrives; Relations Evaluated

FL2702191589 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 27 Feb 89

[Text] Yesterday, the Guyanese foreign minister, Rashleigh Jackson, arrived in Suriname. The visit is a preparatory one for the official visit to Guyana of Suriname's President Ramsewak Shankar.

An official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told our newsroom that Jackson has held discussions with his Surinamese counterpart, Eddie Sedoc. The cooperation relations between Suriname and Guyana was evaluated during the discussions.

Today, Minister Jackson will pay a courtesy visit to President Shankar, Vice President Henck Arron, and the deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Willy Soemita. The Guyanese Minister will today hold a press conference on the results of this visit.

President Shankar's visit to Guyana will take place on 21 and 22 March.